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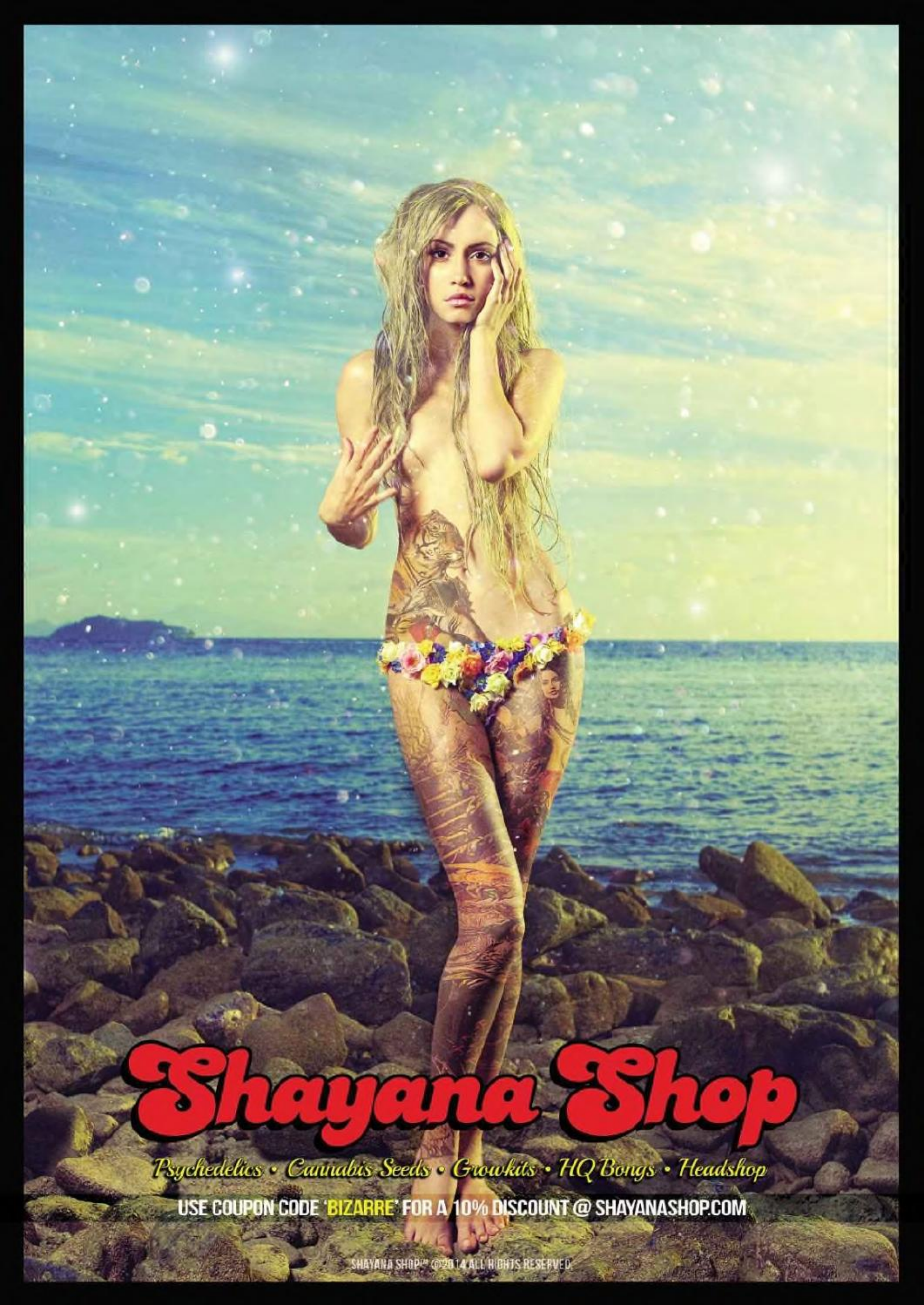
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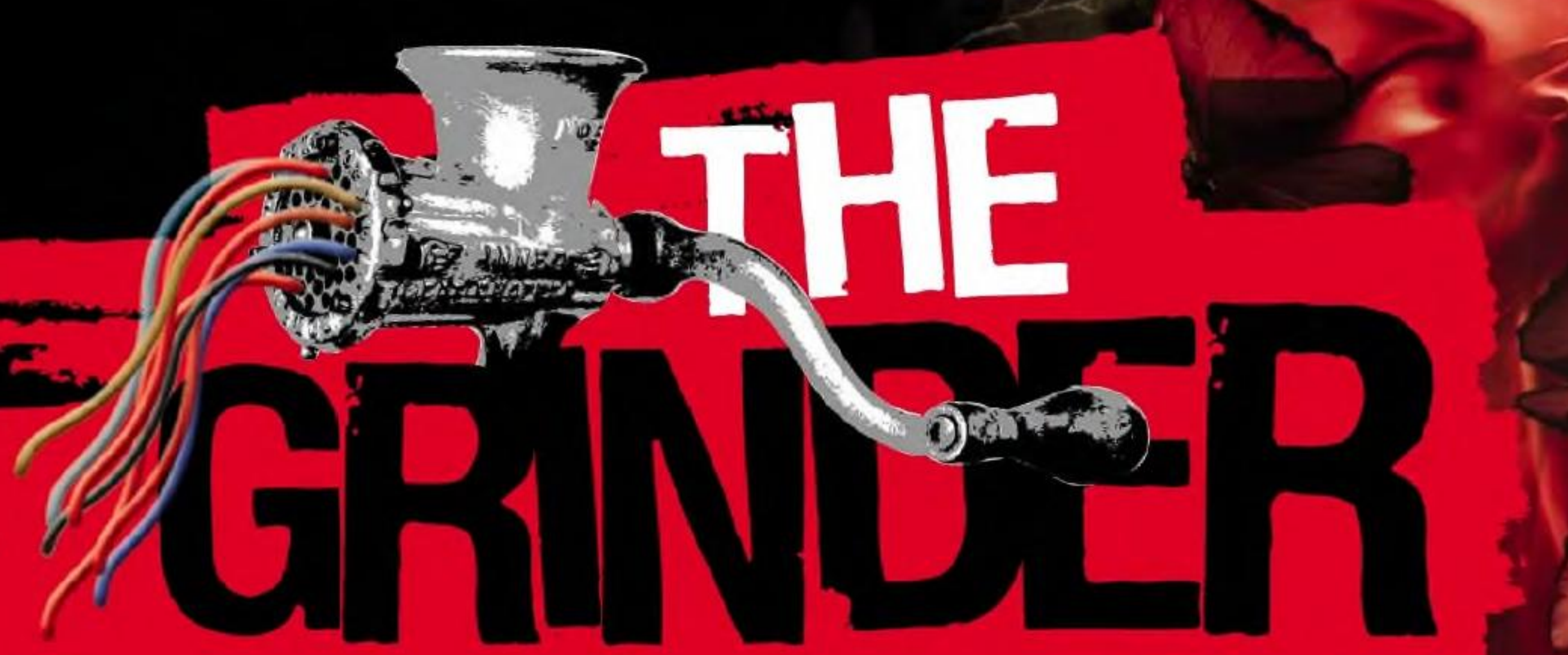
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STICK 'EM UP!

YOUR FOUR PULL-OUT POSTERS BEGIN ON P47, INCLUDING...
RAYNA TERROR! FETISH GIRL! DIVINE! DISNEY VILLAINS!





THE GRINDER

Your monthly mash-up of NEWS, VIEWS, OOZE and OOHS!

DISNEY'S DEADLIEST DAMES

WORLD EXCLUSIVE! Award-winning pin-up photographer, **Chrissy Sparks**, showcases her Disney-inspired project featuring some of *Bizarre*'s hottest alt.stars...

BEHOLD! THE BADDEST BITCHES IN the history of Disney animation have been brought to life by your favourite alt.models – you won't see these twisted sisters looking so devilishly good anywhere else! Enjoy these EXCLUSIVE images as we catch up with the woman behind the wickedness, Chrissy Sparks at Dollhouse Photography, to talk more about the dark side of Disney.

What inspired this concept and how did you find such perfect alt.models for each of the characters?

Bizarre cover star, Lusy Logan, contacted me with the idea and thought I'd be the best person for the job – she wanted images of opulence and extravagance! In turn, I chose another *Bizarre* cover star, Becky Holt, to fill one of the roles, as well as popular burlesque performer, Frankii Wilde – both of whom I've found utterly enchanting to photograph in the past. Lastly, Lusy decided on Belle and Zoe Melissa Mae for the two remaining Disney villainesses.

The choice of stylists was also pivotal; each model spent hours undergoing their transformation, and I'm honoured to have been part of this dream team!

Did you set the alt.models homework to study their role as a Disney villainesses?

I didn't, but Lusy sure did! She also made amazing storyboards for each character, and we collectively discussed the concept in great detail prior to the shoot. The planning was fun, and we let our imaginations run wild!

Were there any unexpected hiccups on the day of the shoot?

I broke my toe a few days beforehand, so I was hobbling around like an old hag. Also, the models' skirts didn't arrive in time, so I improvised and pulled vast quantities of silk fabric from my dressing room, which we fashioned into bustles. Other than that, there was the usual tomfoolery that occurs when a bunch of models and creatives come together. You can see some cool behind-the-scenes footage shot by Loki Films at [Vimeo.com/92443676](https://vimeo.com/92443676).

How long have you been a photographer?

Thousands of man hours! I launched my photography brand, Dollhouse, last May, and it took off quickly. Before I knew it, I'd developed a reputation for my pin-up style and was working 80-hour weeks to meet demands. I'm privileged to earn my living doing something I love! →

WORDS AMANDA COBAN

PHOTOS & DIGITAL ART
CHRISSY SPARKS
AT DOLLHOUSE,
DOLLHOUSEPHOTOGRAPHY.
CO.UK / DOLLHOUSE-ART.CO.UK

MODELS LUSY LOGAN
(CRUELLA DE VIL), BECKY
HOLT (THE QUEEN OF HEARTS),
FRANKII WILDE (THE EVIL
QUEEN), BELLE (MALEFICENT),
ZOE MELISSA MAE (URSULA)

MAKE-UP & HAIR ZANETA
SWIATLOWSKA, LITTLE ORANGE
LOVES, JOANNA STRANGE,
JESSICA WHITE, CHARLIE HEAP

DESIGNERS VALKYRIE CORSETS,
FABULOUSLY FETISH, HYSTERIA
MACHINE, SANGUINEM
LIBIDINE, DROWN SODA

VIDEOGRAPHER LOKI FILMS





Do you only work with alt.models who are well-known in the industry?

I'm known for transforming everyday ladies into bombshells – I even have a section of my website showing 'before' and 'after' shots to prove it. Dollhouse's make-up and hair extraordinaire, Zaneta Swiatlowska, helps to make the transformations possible. Together we shoot a wide variety of styles and clients. We even did a boudoir shoot for a senior lady celebrating a special wedding anniversary – she looked amazing. I believe everyone has the potential to look gorgeous!

We heard you recently received a prestigious award. Congratulations!

I was voted 'Best Vintage Photographer' at The National Vintage Awards 2014. I still need

“Each model spent hours undergoing their transformation”

to pinch myself when I think about that! I was honoured to be nominated, and I was ecstatic when I won – it was such a privilege to have my work validated so early in to my career. It has helped to give my reputation a boost and I've since attracted clients in the US and even the Middle East!

What sets you apart from other vintage-inspired snappers?

I've always been fascinated by the visual world and I've been creative ever since I was a child. I love to let my imagination run wild when I'm making sets and costumes. I've some experience of being on the other side of the camera, and I know that modelling can be utterly exhausting, so I take care to put my subjects at ease to get the best out of the shoot. Every image is a little piece of art and I don't stop editing until it's perfect.

What other projects have you been working on recently?

I'm always looking to expand my work and take on new challenges. A publisher in the US has shown interest in producing a book featuring my pin-up work. I recently toured the West Coast where I photographed some incredible models including Masuimi Max. I never dreamed I'd shoot Masuimi so soon in my career! I have some exhibitions coming up in London art galleries – I'll be posting updates about them on Dollhouse's official Facebook page.

Do you have another big group shoot ideas lined up? Perhaps something starring the baddest blokes in Disney films? Go on, spill the beans!

That sounds really cool! Alas, I've not yet worked with any male alt.models. So far my male portfolio is an eclectic mix of fashion models, rock and metal bands and male strippers. My next super-shoot is in the early planning stages. You'll hear about it here first!

To book a shoot with Chrissy or to find out more about her upcoming exhibitions, head to Dollhousephotography.co.uk or search for 'Doll House Photography' on Facebook. Chrissy's artwork is available to buy from Dollhouse-art.co.uk





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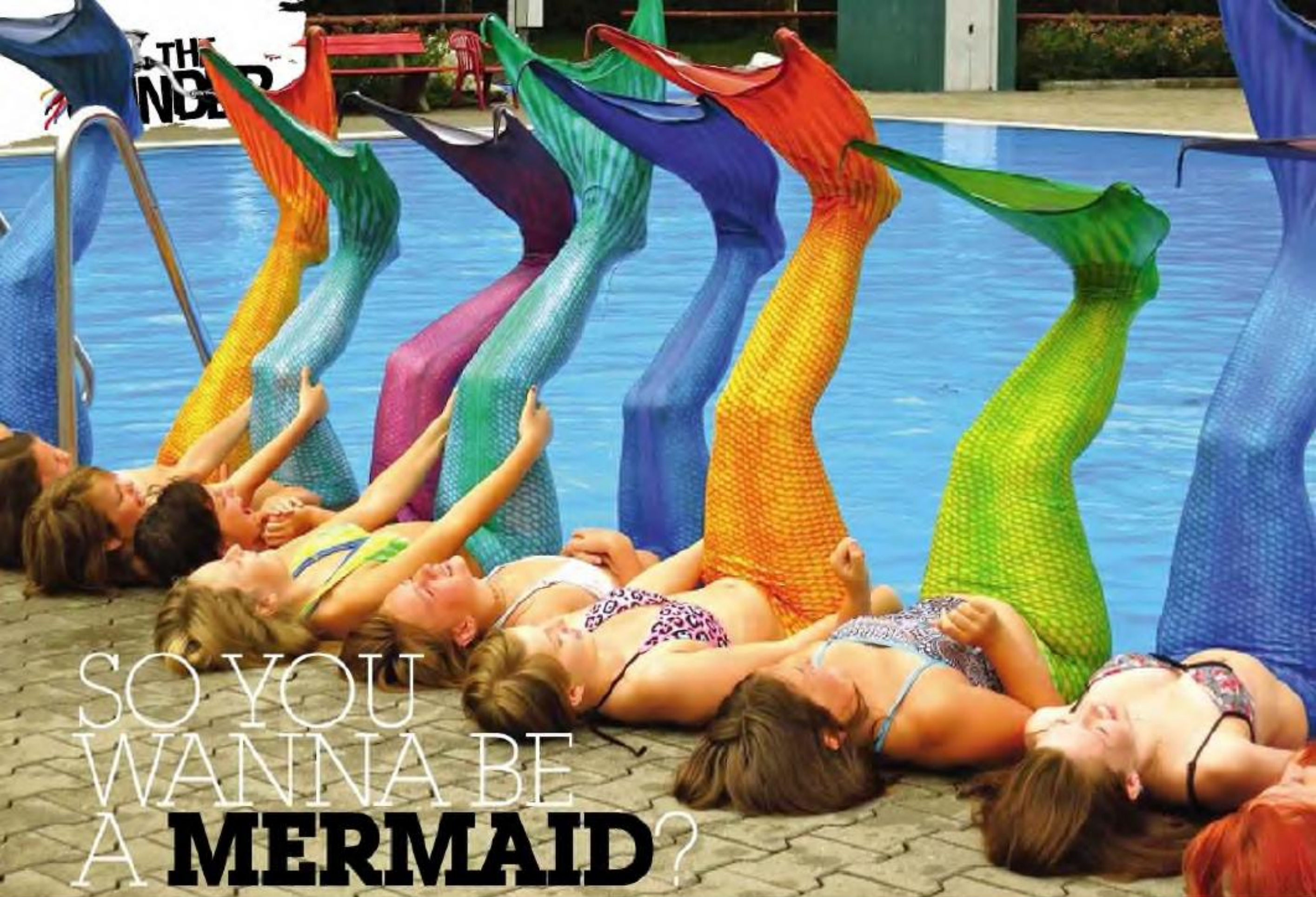
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New mermaid academies are bringing tail-based, mythological fantasies to life. Splish-splash, we were making a dash...

HAVE YOU EVER DREAMED OF BEING a magical creature? A garden fairy, perhaps? Or maybe a unicorn battling evil witches in frozen forests? While there are no current plans for a Unicorn Flying Centre (as far as we know), if your goal in life is to become a deep-sea mermaid, then at least that fantasy can now become a reality.

The Philippine Mermaid Swimming Academy (PMSA) in Boracay Island, Philippines, teaches wannabe water sirens

to swim and dive in full mermaid tail and clobber. And its fantastical swimming courses have made such a splash that further academies have been launched, including two others in the Philippines and one in Germany – Bayerische Meerjungfrauen Schwimmschule – which opened for business last year.

The mermaid schools are the brainchild of Normeth Preglo, a licensed diving instructor who discovered a giant online

community of mermaid enthusiasts while searching for a Halloween costume. A life-long mermaid nut herself, Preglo shared her idea of creating a mermaid school with her pal, Anamie Saenz – a make-up artist and co-founder of Groupon Philippines – and before long the mermaid schools were born.

The academies offer a variety of tail-flapping activities and courses, including an Introduction To Mermaid Swimming, Mermaid Snorkelling, Scuba Mermaiding (for licensed scuba divers only), Mermaid Fitness (essentially aqua aerobics) and Mermaid Make-overs And Photo Shoots.

"We've been able to widen the reach and accessibility of 'mermaiding' to everyone, regardless of their age, gender and race," says a spokesperson for the academy. "We've worked hard to create a safe and fun atmosphere that's supervised by our trained and certified instructors."

As the academy's founders anticipate the aqua-craze to spread globally – there's also a mermaid school in Orlando, Florida, which is aimed at kids – they are now in the process of setting up an International Mermaid Swimming Instructor's Association, which is designed to regulate schools and instructors. "Our goal is to bring joy and happiness to everyone all over the world who has dreams of being a mermaid," the academy spokesperson claims.

Stephen Daultrey

For more splishy-splashy frolics visit Philippinemermaidswimmingacademy.com, Bayerischemeerjungfrauenschwimmschule.de and Facebook.com/PhilippineMermaidSwimmingAcademy



REGULATOR TAKES A SPANKING

UK dominatrix wins court battle against regulator she claims is trying to crack down on internet fetish content

ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED ON BIZARRE

is that you never mess with a dominatrix. And as Ms Tytania, the UK domme behind kinky femdom site The Urban Chicks Supremacy Cell (Uc-sc-femdom.com), has just won a court battle against censors she claims are trying to crack down on internet fetish content, it proves that domineering ladies are not to be trifled with!

UC-SC deals in femdom fantasy videos with an urban twist, often featuring men being bound and beaten by tough women in bover boots (see our kidnap fetish feature in *Bizarre 202*). But in June 2013, the Authority for Television on Demand (ATVOD), an independent body commissioned

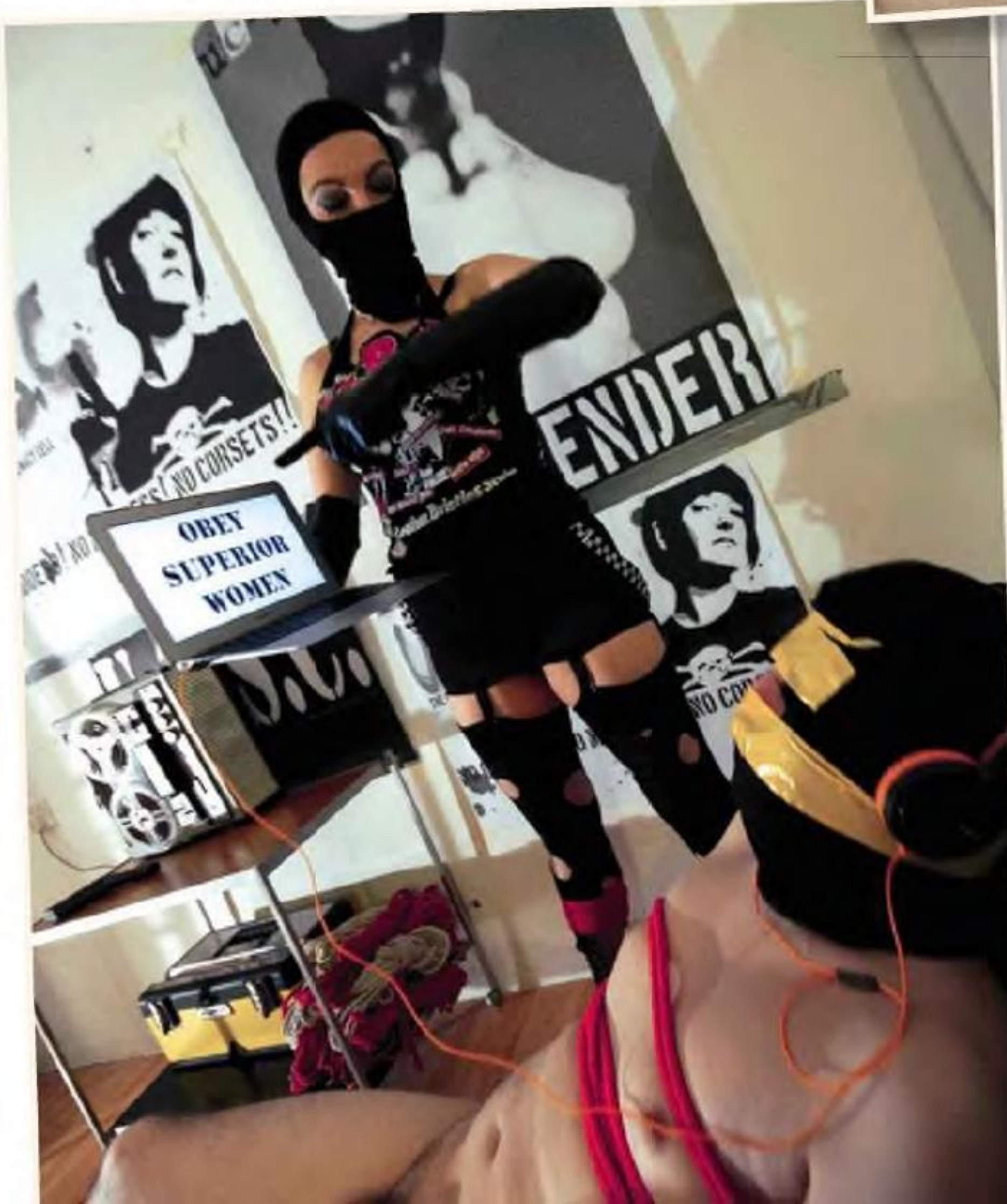
by Ofcom to regulate TV programmes on the internet, claimed that UC-SC and other British adult sites were actually TV-on-demand providers, and should be paying an annual subscription fee to run their services, just like regular TV-on-demand providers.

Worse still, it accused UC-SC of breaching the Obscene Publications Act, and claimed that minors with a debit card could access the site's material. But when Ms Tytania first read these claims, she thought it was a hoax.

"To demand a fee under the pretence that an adult video website was comparable to services such as ITV Player or Sky was



Ms Tytania in threatening pose for her UC-SC website



preposterous," she tells *Bizarre*. "It sounded like a way to extort money from the adult industry. After showing this letter to my lawyers, we concluded that ATVOD was trying to close British adult studios."

While other studios bowed to ATVOD's demands, Ms Tytania fought back with the help of solicitors from Backlash, an organisation that provides academic, legal and campaigning resources to defend freedom of sexual expression (Backlash-uk.org.uk). And in August 2014, after a "very stressful" battle, Ofcom ruled against ATVOD, and said that Ms Tytania's site did not constitute TV-on-demand service or breach obscenity laws.

An Ofcom spokesperson says: "Ofcom found that UC-SC was not an on-demand TV service... but where we do have powers, we take robust action when rules are broken to protect children."

Ms Tytania, an activist for the freedom of sexual and artistic expression, hailed the ruling a victory against "extortion, bullying, and a deliberate attempt at destroying the perfectly legal adult industry in UK".

However, she says the most important outcome has been the feedback she's received in the media. "I have been outed with my full name as a pornographer and dominatrix," she says, "but not as a moral threat or as a freak, but as somebody with agency and a voice."

Ms Tytania is now beginning a PhD course in sexuality and politics at the University of Birmingham, through which she aims to use to raise awareness and acceptance of pornography as an industry. However, she remains wary of the challenges ahead for kink producers. "This case was a taste of the forthcoming censorship laws and regulations that the government is planning," she warns. **Stephen Daultrey**



LET'S ROCK!

Celebrate 25 years of David Lynch's *Twin Peaks* and the new *Entire Mystery* Blu-ray box set at the fifth annual *Twin Peaks* UK Festival in London

WITH ITS HAUNTING SOUNDTRACK, offbeat humour and tales of murder, corruption and lies, *Twin Peaks* remains an undisputed cult phenomenon and firm favourite for many David Lynch fans around the world. Since the series first aired 24 years ago, it continues to influence writers, artists and other creatives in both popular and alternative culture.

Now, for the first time, fans can watch the surreal investigation into the death of Laura Palmer on a set of 10 Blu-ray discs.

As well as every episode from the two seasons of *Twin Peaks*, the box set also includes the 1992 prequel feature, *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*, and an additional 90 minutes of previously unseen footage.

Bizarre has seen the box set first-hand, and it gets a Special Agent Cooper thumbs-up from us! Viewed in high-definition, Bob's wide-eyed, teeth-bearing grimace has never looked so unsettling...

After the sell-out success of last year's *Twin Peaks* UK Festival, organiser Lindsey Bowden and her team have decided to move their next event to a bigger location.

This November, fans can flock to the Genesis Cinema in Whitechapel for a full day of screenings, artwork exhibitions and burlesque and cabaret performances from Lynchian troupe The Double R Club, plus the chance to hear Lynch's new album, *The Big Dream*. The organisers will even be serving up cherry pies, doughnuts and hot

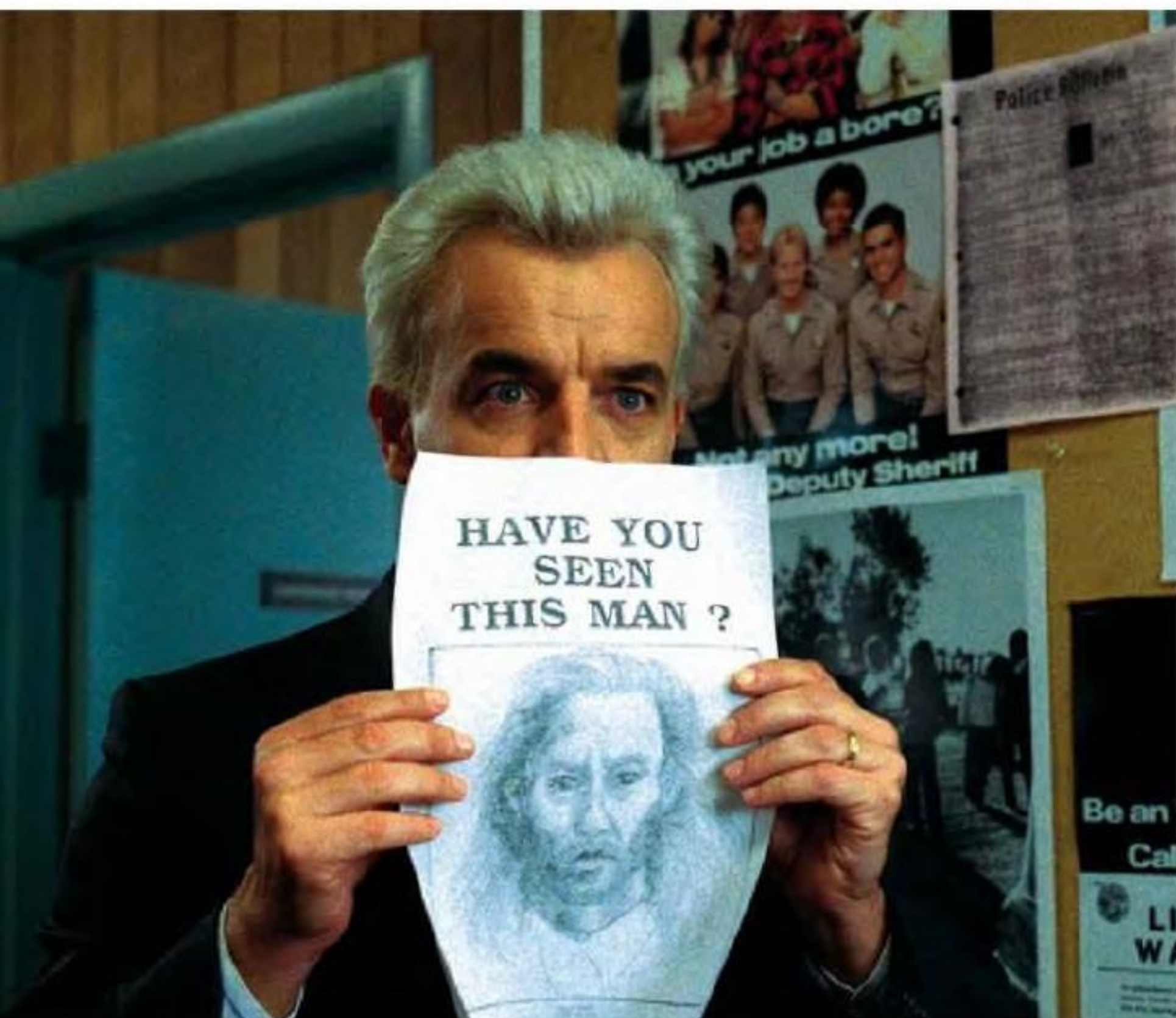
cups of David Lynch coffee, which is best served black as midnight on a moonless night.

The festival will also feature a star-studded line-up of guests including Sheryl Lee (Laura Palmer), Dana Ashbrook (Bobby Briggs) and James Marshall (James Hurley), who'll be poised and ready to autograph your stuff during one of two signing sessions. A special auction will also be taking place for an original *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* cinema poster, which will be signed by the three cast members. The money raised from the sale will be donated to the UK cancer support charity, Macmillan.

It's a damn fine time to be a *Twin Peaks* fan... see you in the trees! **Amanda Coburn**



The fifth *Twin Peaks* UK Festival takes place on 15 November. Tickets are on sale at twinpeaksukfestival.com. *Twin Peaks: The Entire Mystery* is out now on Blu-ray



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Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot!

Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!

BIZARRE Junk mail

EDITED BY MANDATRON

Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com

POSTAL ADDRESS

JUNK MAIL, BIZARRE,
PO BOX 59844, LONDON SW14 9BH

SEND US YOUR STUFF!

Dumpstar!



PROUD TO BE DIFFERENT

Here's a little cuteness to brighten up your day! Recently my son, Nate, found the Proud To Be Different badge that *Bizarre* sent me over five years ago when my letter about modelling with disabilities was featured in your Junk Mail section.

Nate asked me if he could have the badge, and spent the rest of the day wearing it. Nate definitely is different – he has high-functioning autism, so he has little regard for the status quo. I'm helping to raise awareness of the condition via a project called Admiring Autism, which is run by a lovely woman called Sara Dunn.

Despite not having a perfect body, I'm still modelling. I hope that in the future disabled models will be something that we see every day.

As I've always said, people who have dreams of becoming an alt.model

PICTURE KENNY PARTINGTON – ILLUSIONARY ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY
SPECIAL THANKS TO MATT MORRIS FOR LENDING BOB THE LIZARD



THAT'S THE
WEIRDEST
LOOKING RAT I'VE
EVER SEEN!

WELCOME TO HELL'S KITCHEN

I thought I'd show you some of the gross cakes I've made (below) after being inspired by a feature I read in *Bizarre* a few years ago. I'm a tattooist at Studio 13 in Alford, Lincolnshire, so my baking is only for fun. But as I love horror and gore, I'm always trying to bake something worse than my last creation! I've tried baking nice things, but nice ain't my idea of fun. I'd love to see a couple of my cakes in *Bizarre*...

Hayley Marie Craig, via email



just need to keep trying – don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it!

Amy Hughes, via Facebook

Bizarre says: It's good to hear from you again, Amy! We're thrilled your son is comfortable in his own skin, just like his rad mum. Readers can see more of Amy's alt.modelling at [Facebook.com/kittyvonpurraltmodel](https://www.facebook.com/kittyvonpurraltmodel). For more info about the project to raise awareness about autism, head to Admiringautism.co.uk.





PICTURES: BRETIA ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

BAD-ASS MOTHERFLUFFER

I've been a fan of *Bizarre* for a long time, and I'd love to share some of my alt-fashion designs with you. I'm lucky as I've already been featured twice in the YourBizarre Photo Assault via Tumblr – but I've got some sweet new images to show you!

I created an outfit inspired by *Resident Evil* (above), which is being modelled in these photos by Evangeline Kroon at last year's Toronto Zombie Walk. Most of my fashion designs

have an alternative, Lolita or Gothic look, but I also produce pin-up, boudoir and burlesque-inspired pieces. When it comes down to it, I can create whatever I want!

I find that movies are a great source of inspiration, and in the past I've made pieces inspired by *The Silence Of The Lambs*, *The Shining* and Stephen King's *It*, and I'm currently making outfits based on Francis Ford Coppola's *Dracula* and Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*. Check out Flufferdesigns.com to see more.

Joanna at Fluffer Designs, via email

FORWARD THINKING

My name is Nandi and I've been an avid *Bizarre* reader for many years.

I'm a photographer, and in 2008 one of my images was published in the YourBizarre section under the name Nitemare Photography. It was amazing seeing my work in print! Since then I've worked with *Bizarre* cover star Lusy Logan and, more recently, Ultra Vixen Candy Valentina, who was featured in *Bizarre* 220.

This shot of Candy (below) is particularly creepy, so I thought your readers might like to see it. Candy and I had been talking about recreating one of Natalie Chau's paintings, and we had everything ready to go – but

the wig just wouldn't do what we wanted it to do! So we decided to return the idea another day and shoot something else along similar lines.

The night before the photoshoot I'd been at a Babymetal live show in London, and it inspired me to think about the Candy shoot again. In the end, the result was a mix of Natalie Chau inspiration meets Babymetal-style Lolita fashion... and some rather creepy photos!

Candy and I often work together to get the best results, and she did all her own hair and make-up for this shoot. We took the photos in my spare room, against a white wall, and between lots of joking around and laughing →



ILLUMIN-EYE INK

Hi *Bizarre* – check out my new tattoo! It took four hours to complete at this year's Cardiff Tattoo And Toy Convention, and was the work of the talented Duane Robinson of Illumin-eye Tattoo in London. I love it! It's part of a strange fetish and horror leg sleeve that I'm working on. There's no real reason behind my scary leg, apart from the fact that I'm a massive horror whore and lover of all things twisted. Duane nailed the design exactly how I'd imagined it!

Ultra Vixen Miss Annalieza, via email



PICTURE: NANDI FORWARD PHOTOGRAPHY

we somehow managed to get Candy looking dead serious and quite scary!

There were quite a few images from the set I liked, but we both agreed this particular picture had everything we wanted to convey; scary, intense and artistic. We're considering continuing this set - we love the idea of recreating artists' work as photographs. Keep an eye on my website Nandiphotography.co.uk for updates.

Nandi Forward, via email

ICE KING

Good day, fine people of *Bizarre*. It's me - King Of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-It. I've been up to a fair bit since the last time I appeared in your magazine...

In August I gave my input to a BBC news article, which debated whether discrimination against people with tattoos should be made illegal. This is a subject I feel strongly about, and I believe the government needs to do more work to tackle identity issues.



PICTURE: LEANNE HOLLY

the legal issues with my passport, which came up when I changed my name (below). The story even made the national news!

Last but not least, I'd like to give a shout out to my green-haired princess, who's changing her name to Queen Of Ink Land Leanne Holly The Extreme Ink-It. I'm sure she'll have fun trying to acquire a UK passport, too!

King of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-It, via email

CREEPY TALES FOR KIDS

I'm a 26-year-old model with a passion for reading and writing fantasy and horror novels. I've written a collection of stories titled *Zombie Jig And Jive And Other Creepy Tales*, which is due for publication around Halloween this year. The stories involve zombie ballerinas, kids with their skin falling off and cyber rabbits squeezing through computer screens. All of the illustrations are by Carrie Martyn (example right).

I've always loved zombie tales and apocalyptic settings. I wanted to write something that looked completely innocent on the surface, but was actually really dangerous. That's when I thought of a zombie ballerina, dancing to its own tune of desperate hunger!

The writer Wayne Simmons has been a huge influence on my work.

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys... and in the weirdest places!



Lauren Hogan (@_laurenh_) uploaded a cool YouTube video of her applying make-up based on the great Draco Oho Zarharzar (featured in *Bizarre 216*) while chatting about five of her favourite films. It's definitely worth a watch! Check out more of Lauren's videos at Youtube.com/user/leanashe23

On another note, I successfully managed to avoid getting soaked as part of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge which went viral this summer. I'm not one for wasting water, so I opted to have an ice bucket added to my body art (above and below), then made a donation to Water Aid. Alan Cooke from the House Of Pain Tattoo Studio in Coventry kindly gave up his time to ink the ice bucket free of charge... he's a top man! Alan also tattooed a Bat Boglin on my right ankle (for those of you who are too young to remember, Boglins were rubbery goblin monster toys from the 1980s - and they were epic!). The Bat Boglin was never released, so I'm pleased to have one in ink form.

In other news, the British government has now resolved



PICTURE: LEANNE HOLLY





PICTURE: NIK SHEPPARD

as has my all-time favourite novel, *Let The Right One In* by John Ajvide Lindqvist. The bloodthirsty *True Blood* novels also helped to shape my work, and I read them long before the series hit the small screen.

Aside from my love of writing I also have a lot of tattoos, and my designs are based on classic literature, including Dr Seuss' *The Cat In The Hat*, Lemony Snicket's *A Series Of Unfortunate Events*, German fairy tale *Rapunzel*, *Where The Wild Things Are* and so on.

Modelling is another of my passions. I love taking on the role of frightening or haunting characters, as well as trying to depict a strong female aura (you can see an example of my modelling, above right). If you want to find out more about my work, take a trip to [Facebook.com/karlabradingbooks](https://www.facebook.com/karlabradingbooks).
Karla Brading, via email

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

I've been ploughing through my back issues of *Bizarre*, looking for an article you printed a few years ago. But no matter how hard I look, I can't find the damned thing. Please help me!

The article was about a weird island, where a hermit had nailed hundreds of rotting dolls to trees. I remember the pictures being eerie, and when I closed my eyes to go to sleep at night, all I could see were the faces of these creepy dolls floating in front of me. The feature made me feel scared, uncomfortable and creeped out – in other words, it was the perfect *Bizarre* article!

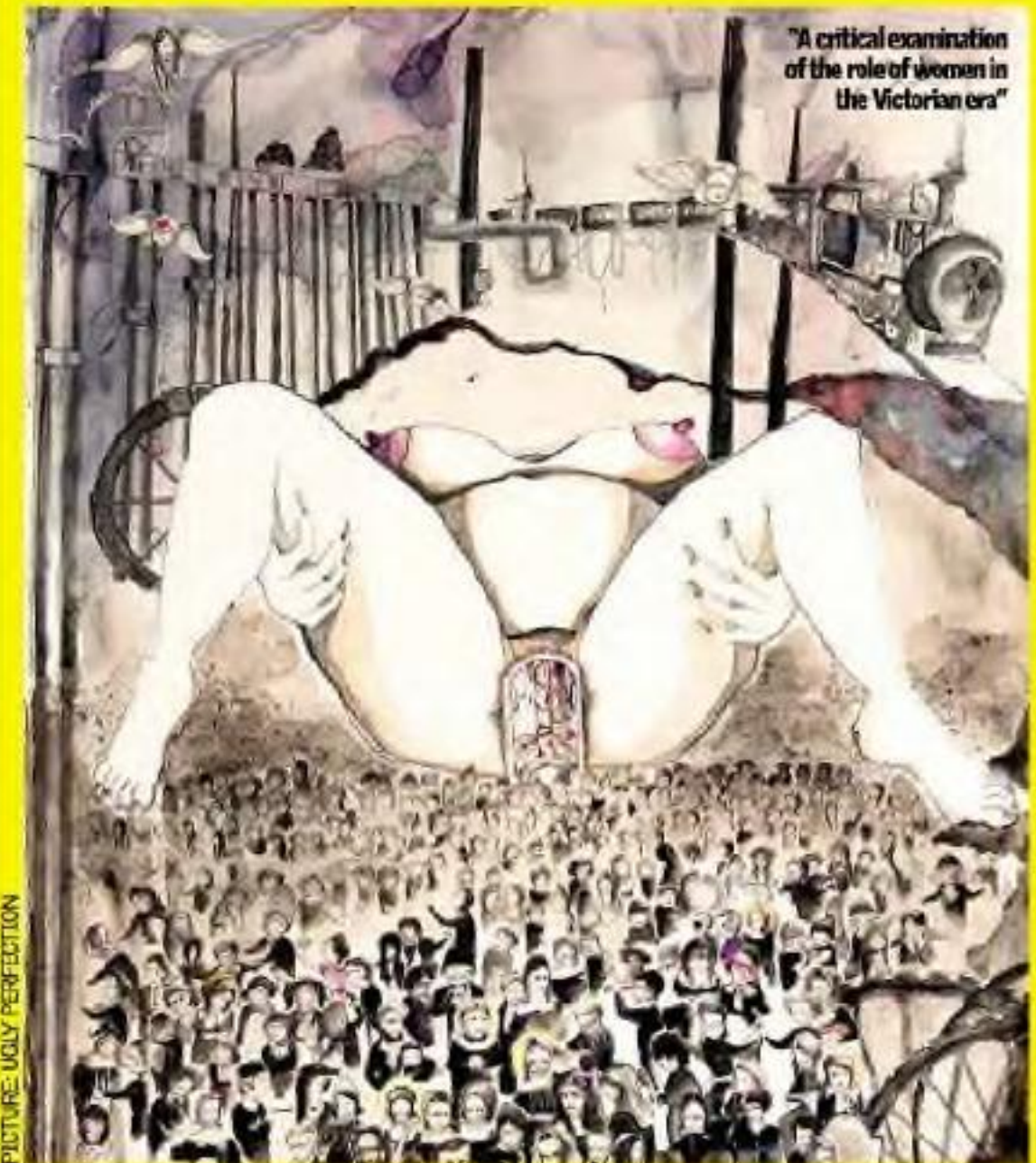
Where in the world is this island? And is it still there?

George Lynch, via email

Bizarre says: The photos were taken in the Xochimilco canals, around 17 miles south of Mexico City, on a remote island known as the Isla De Las Munecas (Island Of The Dolls). The island was once home to a hermit, who collected lost dolls as a tribute to a girl who'd drowned nearby. The good news is that we recently revisited the Island Of The Dolls, and we're planning a follow up feature soon. So stay tuned for more dolly creepiness!

PHOTO ASSAULT

You lot showing off on our community page... Visit us at [Your-bizarre.tumblr.com](https://www.your-bizarre.tumblr.com)



"A critical examination of the role of women in the Victorian era"

PICTURE: UGLY PERFECTION



Rob Zombie by Alice von Goltz, titled 'Hollowed - Marty'



"I've been plagued by an evil temptress by the name of Elle Mae"

PICTURE: JACE J STUDIOS



A blood fest photo shoot with Christiana Davies

PICTURE: SOGAVOUS PHOTOGRAPHY

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YOUR Body Art

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PICTURES
ESTER SEGARRA



LIAM DAVIES
BRISTOL



ARTISTS

Steve Byrne at
Rock Of Ages Tattoo,
Texas, US (globe);
Valerie Vargas at
Frith Street Tattoo,

London (dragon); Bradley Tompkins at
Swansea Tattoo Co, Swansea (castle).

WHAT ARE THEY?

A geographer's globe on my left leg,
and a dragon and castle on my right leg.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

I've always been passionate about

geography since visiting Egyptology
museums with my father when I was
a kid – this inspired most of my tattoos.

I love Valerie's work, but it's always
difficult to book an appointment with
her as she's so popular. Fortunately
she had a cancellation, so I was able to
quickly book myself in for the dragon.

WHAT RESPONSE DO THEY GET?

It varies! I either get people admiring
my ink and asking where I got the work
done, or I'm stared at by older people
who try to work out if I'm a Satanist
or some other sort of evil thing.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I'm considering continuing the
geographical theme on my back.



NESS WATSON
LONDON



ARTISTS Neil Bass at Tattoo FX, Burgess Hill (throat, sleeve, right hand); Jondix in London (left hand).

WHAT ARE THEY?

A traditional design of a skull with butterfly wings behind it, a Hawaii-inspired sleeve, and Thai-based mandala designs on my hands.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

The wings behind the skull are from a species of butterfly called *Vanessa atalanta*, and I chose this design because Vanessa is my full name. For my sleeve I wanted something with the flow of a Japanese design, but incorporating Hawaiian graffiti and punk elements.

HOW LONG DID THEY TAKE?

My sleeve was finished in six sessions, each taking four hours.

WHAT RESPONSE DO THEY GET?

People seem to love my sleeve! I suppose that's because it's pretty original.





ELIZABETH BISHOP WALSALL



ARTIST

Rachel Baldwin
at Modern Body
Art, Birmingham.

WHAT IS IT?

A lady holding
a snow globe with the Eiffel
Tower inside it.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

Paris is my favourite place in the world, and I wanted to represent this using a subtle element in the design. I think Rachel is amazing at portraying women.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

I've had just under 10 hours work so far, with another two to go.

WHAT REACTION DOES IT GET?

A lot of people – particularly women – ask me who did the work.



ARAM MOHAMMED LONDON



ARTIST Niklas Westin
from Barcelona.

WHAT IS IT?

A sleeve inspired by Far
Eastern culture, including
a Fu Dog and Buddha.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I love everything Japanese! I looked for

almost a year to find the perfect
tattoo artist. Niklas doesn't have his
own studio, so I contacted him through
Facebook and arranged to fly out to
Spain for an appointment.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

We started with a half-sleeve, which
took around 15 hours over two days.
Then we continued for another five days,
pretty much non-stop, and it took just
under 30 hours for the rest of my work.
It was brutal, but we got there in the end.



OLIVIA TAYLOR GLASGOW



ARTIST Marcus Maguire at Custom Inc Tattoo Studio, Glasgow.
WHAT IS IT? A black and grey portrait of a lady.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT? I love Victorian art and black and grey tattoos, so I knew my design would play on those styles. I love the details such as

the lace cuff, the choker and the key in the woman's hand. The design also includes a hairpin, which I wanted Marcus to include because it's so typical of the Victorian era.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

So far, it's taken eight hours – but it isn't completely finished yet!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

I always get good reactions. It took a long time to find the right artist, but when I found Marcus I knew he was the man for the job.



GOLDILOX BIRMINGHAM



ARTISTS David Corden at Ritual Art, Kent (moth); Musa at Tribo Tattoo, Prague (bird).

WHAT ARE THEY?

A Luna Moth on my upper back and a kingfisher on my lower back.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

I love Luna Moths – they're such

beautiful creatures. The first sitting took around 10 hours, followed by another five hours for a top up. It was a bit of a nightmare, but David is a good friend of mine and it was certainly worth it. Musa tattooed the kingfisher at a convention in the UK. As I'm a tattooist myself – previously at Painted Lady Tattoo Parlour, but now working from my private studio, Incandescence – I regularly meet other artists at conventions. It's a great opportunity to see different professionals at work.





SOFIA DOYLE
LEEDS



ARTIST

Shaun Bailey at Sacred Electric, Leeds.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Two portraits on my thighs, inspired by

the art of Natalie Chau.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?

I didn't want an exact replica of Chau's work, so I showed Shaun her artwork and he interpreted it in his own recognisable style.

HOW LONG DID THEY TAKE?

The lady took about seven hours and the man around six hours.

WHAT RESPONSE DO THEY GET?

Everyone who likes tattoos usually loves them, but those that don't sometimes give me funny looks.

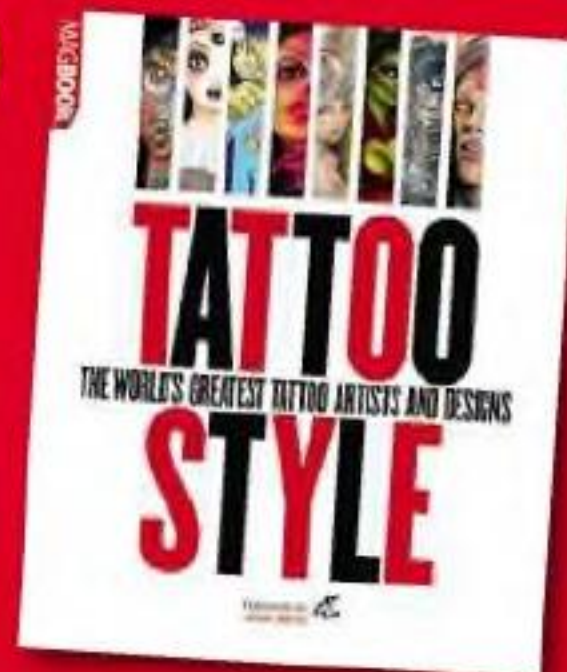
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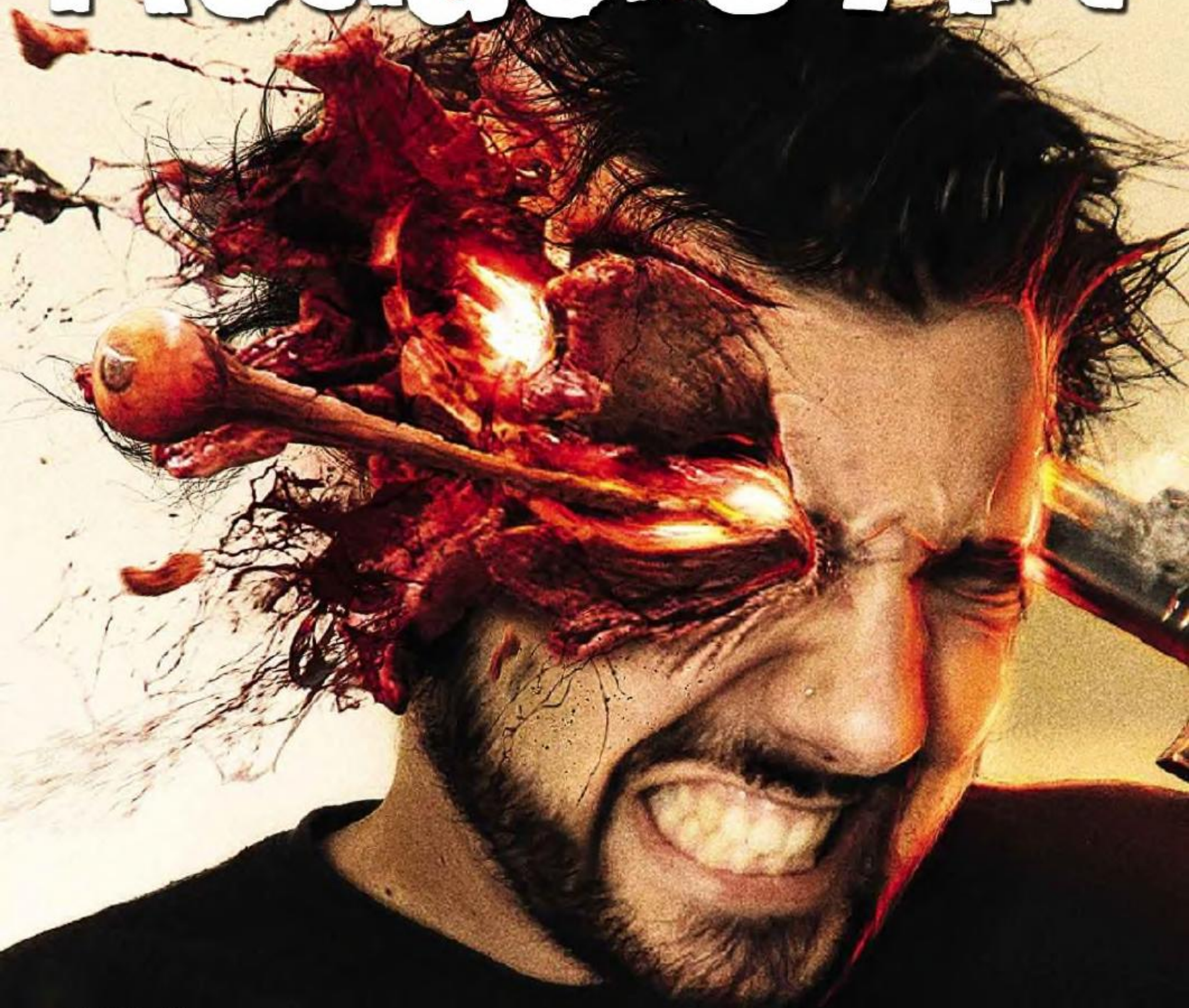
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YOUR BIZARRE

YOUR DOODLES & MASTERPIECES Readers' Art



Elliott Montello

Newton Abbot

"My style is best described as photo manipulation that combines Photoshop techniques and digital painting – I use these methods along with the traditional art skills I've learned over the years. This piece is titled 'The Voices Won't Stop'."

[Flickr.com/photos/elliottmontello](https://www.flickr.com/photos/elliottmontello)

VOICES

THIS PICTURE AND BELOW
Shaun Whitehead
Connecticut, USA

"I'm a tattoo artist at West Haven Tattoo in Shelton, Connecticut. This portrait of Jen Lee is an oil-realism piece, which is something I'd never tried before. I put at least 16 hours into this painting, even though it's only 6x6in."

"This elephant piece was produced using oils mixed with Liquin. It was created in two solid hours of frantic painting like a mad man. It's called 'The Ghosts Never Forget!'"
Shaunwhitehead.com

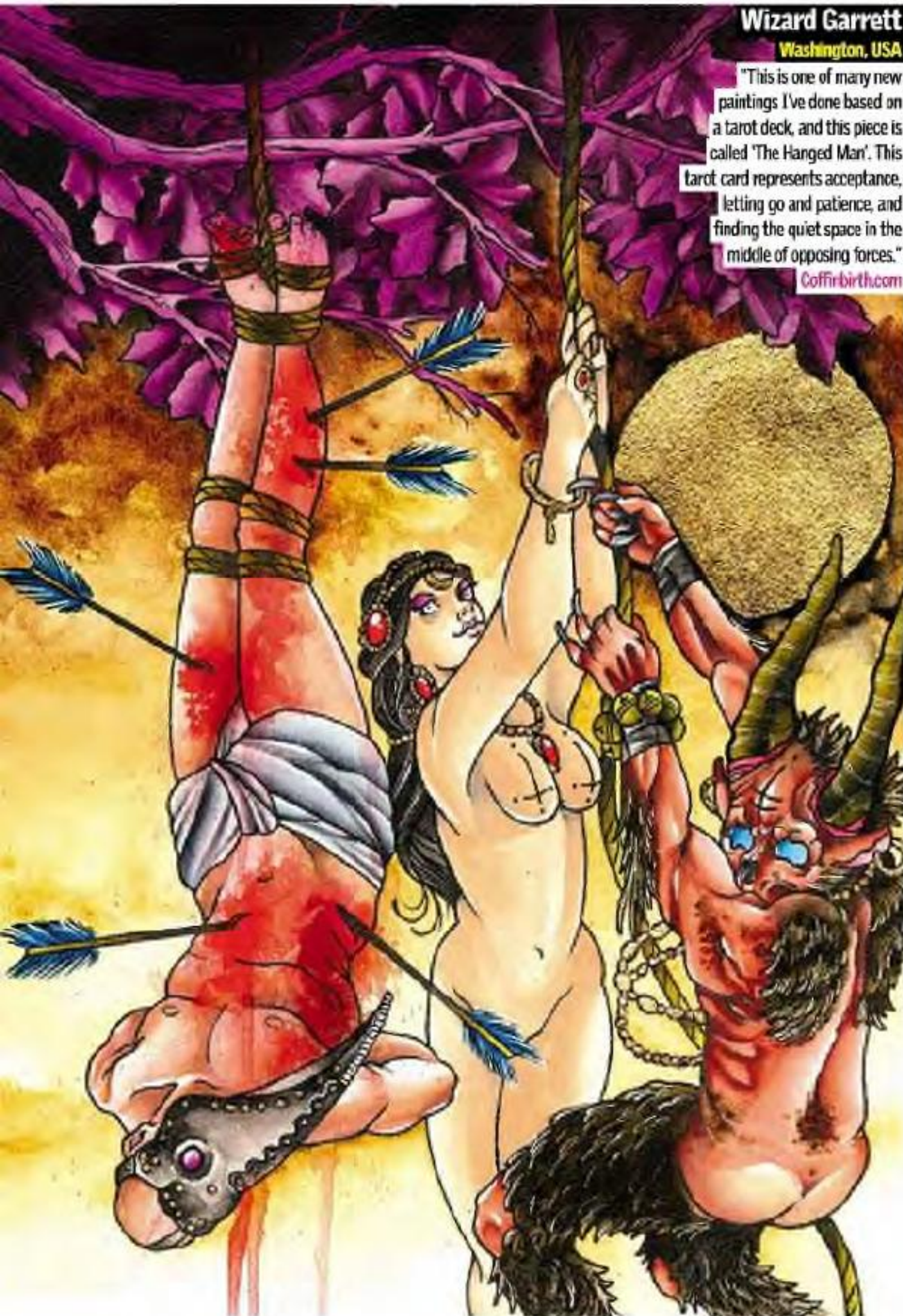
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Ashlie Huff

Wiltshire

"My erotic artworks tend to have an edge of vulnerability – they're recordings of a moment in time. The image is never crystal clear in my head, so I often use alt. models from *Bizarre* as a reference. This is the first time I've showcased my art, but I may set up an online portfolio."



Wizard Garrett

Washington, USA

"This is one of many new paintings I've done based on a tarot deck, and this piece is called 'The Hanged Man'. This tarot card represents acceptance, letting go and patience, and finding the quiet space in the middle of opposing forces."

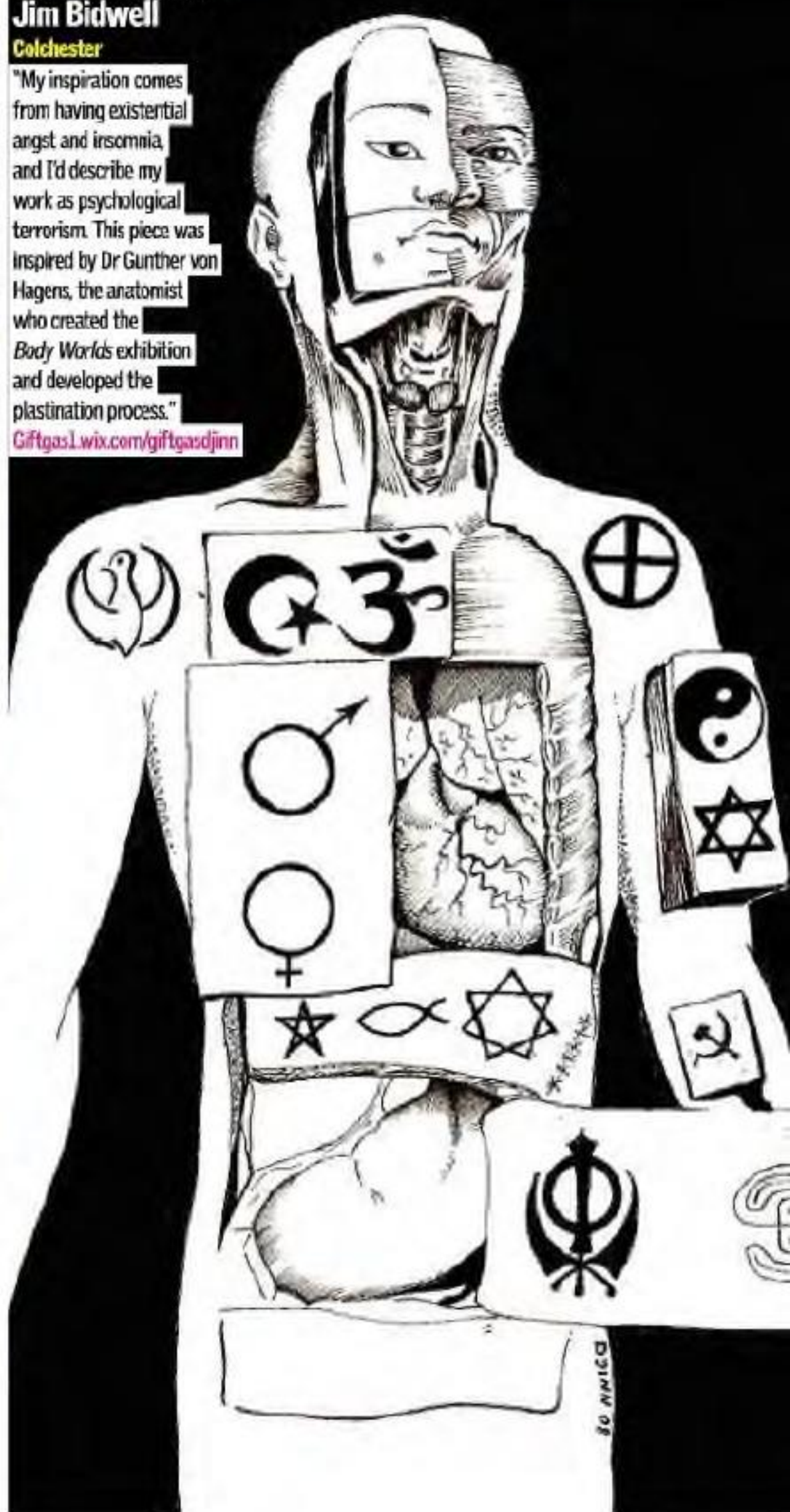
Coffinbirth.com

Rev DJINN AKA Jim Bidwell

Colchester

"My inspiration comes from having existential angst and insomnia, and I'd describe my work as psychological terrorism. This piece was inspired by Dr Gunther von Hagens, the anatomist who created the *Body Worlds* exhibition and developed the plastination process."

Giftgas1.wix.com/giftgasdjinn



INTRODUCING THE NEVADA RANGE



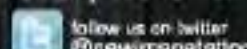
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JONARCISSA

23, LONDON

"I admire Salvador Dalí - not only because of his art, but because of his attitude towards life. Dalí was true to his edgy self, no matter what, until his death. Before I die, I want to create my own graphic novel, get covered in tattoos and swim with sharks. One of my favourite films of all time is *Jaws*!"

SERENITY WILDE

21, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

"During a recent shoot I had an audience watching me, and the only thing I had covering my modesty were strips of newspaper! I love leather, chairs and all things lacy. Bizarre is like me - crazy and creative!"

PICTURE: KEVIN RICHARDSON

BIZARRE'S
Ultra Vixens



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**MYNXIE
MONROE**

24, LONDON

"I was once naked in a dressing room that was actually a tent in the middle of a field, with people setting themselves on fire outside as I stuck bats to my nipples while babysitting a 9ft python – so nothing seems weird to me any longer. I love strong gin, a perfect manicure and fuckin' dirty rock'n'roll."

PICTURE: CONNIE TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

MELICIOUS**23, KENT**

PICTURE: GORDON C. BURNS

"One of my biggest achievements was setting up my own tattoo studio. My greatest regret, however, was wasting time with the wrong people. I'm laid-back, good humoured and easy to get on with, but I do have a fiery side and will stand up for myself. Stupidity makes my blood boil!"



ELIZABETH MARY

19, SOUTHAMPTON

"I'm a fantasy geek who enjoys spending her evenings blogging, and watching *Game Of Thrones* and porn. I have a massive crush on tattooist and alt.star, Megan Massacre; her bright orange hair and piercing eyes really get to me. I've stuck several pages from my collection of *Bizarre* magazines on my wall as eye candy."

PICTURE: JEREMY GRIFFIN



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PICTURE: JOHN BRUCE

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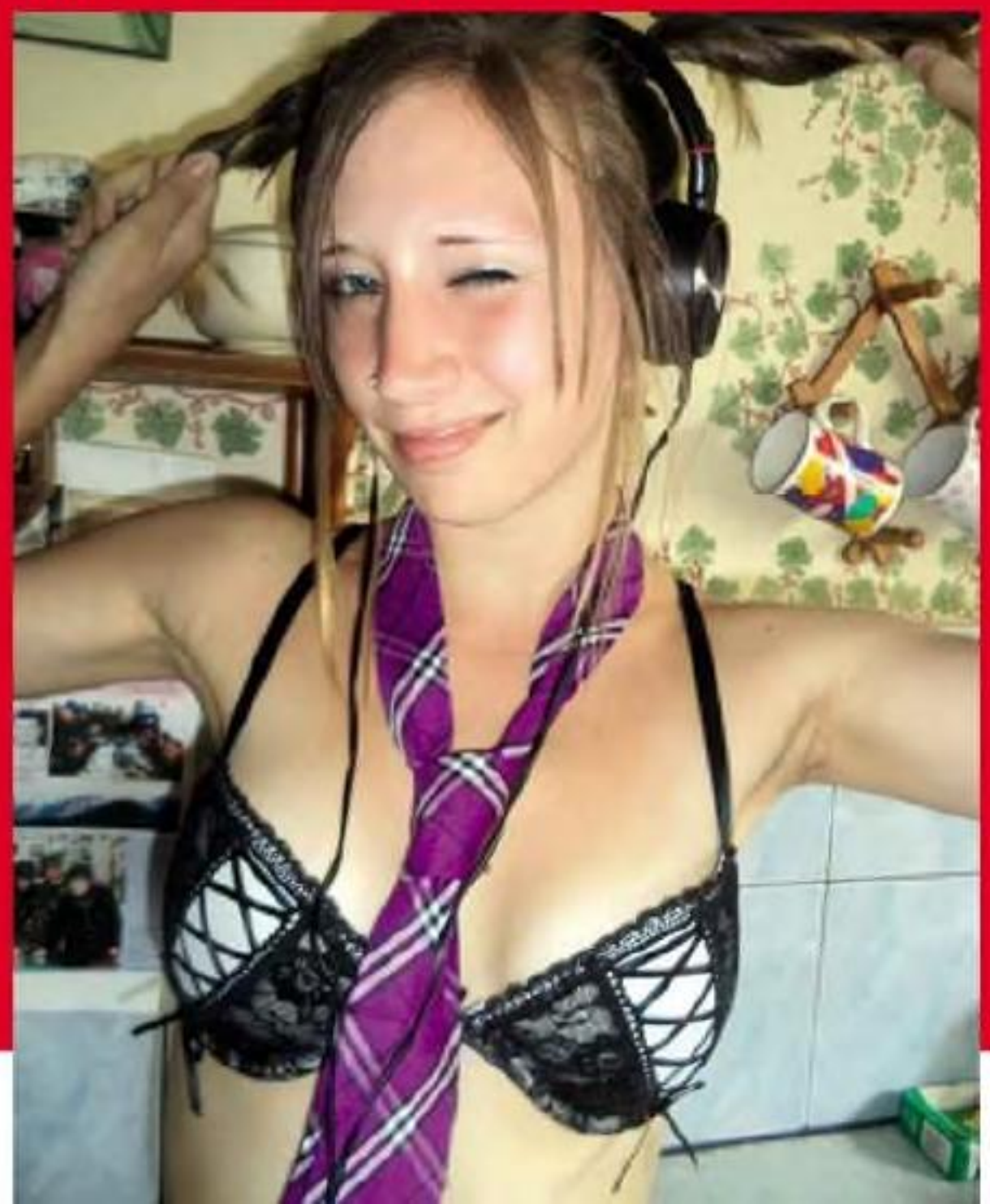
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Midgymooshoe (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to Ultravixens.net/midgymooshoe to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of **LIVE CHAT** Ultra Vixens, go to UltraVixens.net/live



ULTRA VIXEN: MIDGYMOOSHUE
PICTURE: JOHN BRUCE

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OUR NEW FAVES

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET



PICTURE KELLY & PAUL - ANGELWORKS IMAGES

ILLUMINATO

Mandatron says: "She only joined UltraVixens.net in June, but Illuminato already has a horde of followers eagerly awaiting her next upload. There's one shot in her gallery which she describes as "latex yoga". Yep - she's flexy, sexy and I simply can't resist singing her name like it's a song by Styx. Anyone else know what I'm talking about?"

Dave Kelsall says: "I have no idea what you're talking about, Mandatron... but I never do. Nice shot of Illuminato - she looks mean and nasty (in a good way, of course)."

RAELINN

Mandatron says: "Here's Raelinn from Birmingham - another newbie to UltraVixens.net who's already making waves. I really like Raelinn's style. She's got a strong look with her half-shaved head and eye-catching body modifications. I'm looking forward to seeing more from her, perhaps in a dungeon, cracking a domme's whip? She'd look fierce!"

Dave says: "I like Raelinn as well... there's something about her. I think it's the fact she doesn't try too hard and there's an old style Bizarre quality to her pics on UltraVixens.net."

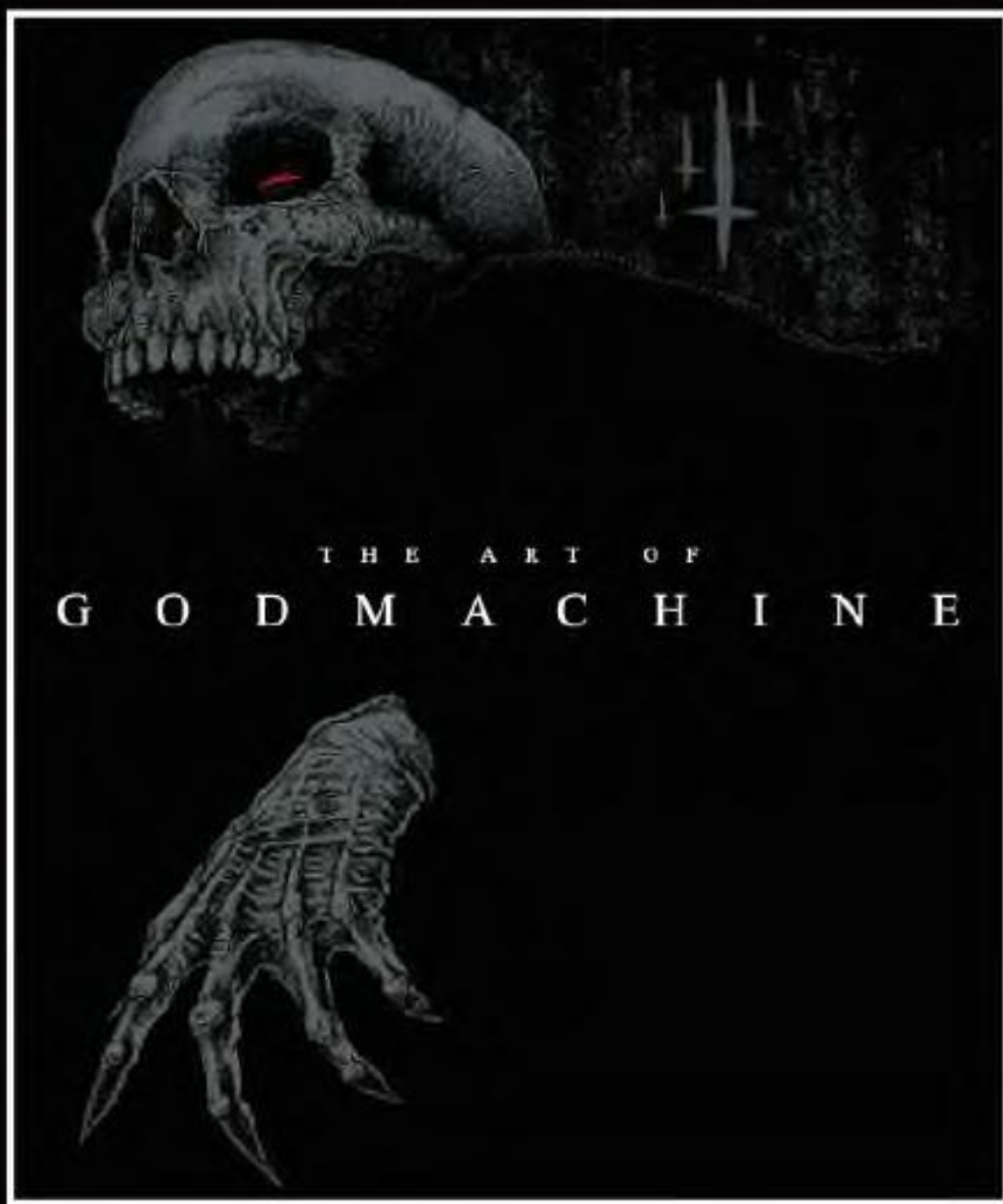
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A DATE WITH

TERROR

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BLACK SHEEP
LATEX

Bizarre gets invited into the home of bewitching inked superstar **Rayna Terror**. Join us as she shares wild tales of lurid webcam sessions and buried skulls, and are given an honest insight into the world of 'gentlemen's clubs'...

Long may Queen Rayna reign!

It's not every day that Bizarre gets to visit the home of one of its most sumptuous and enigmatic cover models. But here we are, on a warm, muggy day in September, grinning like a Cheshire Cat and surrounded by cute yapping dogs, slithering snakes and taxidermy inside the quirky abode of Rayna Terror, one of Bizarre's favourite people. Right now, we couldn't be any happier!

Curvaceous, raven-haired beauty Rayna relocated from her native Canada in September 2006, swapping the sensual delights of Calgary for the bright lights of London.

Rayna was a finalist in Bizarre's 2011 cover star competition, where she was narrowly pipped to the top prize by Amie Conradine. Since then she's been inked by US jigsaw man The Enigma, partied with Masumi Max, stashed one of her dog's testicles in her freezer, and buried a giant skull in her garden.

As Rayna cracks open an ice-cold can of Guinness – her preferred quaff (she even has a Guinness tattoo to corroborate her allegiance to the Irish black nectar) – the talented model and budding fashion entrepreneur sits down to tell us about her life and what makes her tick,

as well as providing some insight into the world of stripping – a career path she briefly pursued as she raised funds to study at a prestigious hairdressing school.

But first things first. Why does she have a canine plum in her fridge...?

Thanks for inviting us over, Rayna. But why is one of your dog's testicles in your freezer?

I took my dog to the vet to be castrated, and because I like wet mounts in taxidermy – dead things in jars of formaldehyde – I was hoping they'd let me keep his testicles. I mean, he's my dog, so the balls are technically mine, right? Fortunately, the vet was OK with it. I don't think my vet is shocked by anything I say or do any more. I'm now looking for a jar to put them in, so that I can display them on my mantelpiece.

And why were you digging up a giant pig's skull in your garden last week...?

That's Simon. I asked my local butcher if he had anything I could use to do skull taxidermy →



R



with, because I find roadkill taxidermy messy. He dumped this massive pig's head on me, which was the size of a four-litre jug of milk and weighed a ton. I wanted to boil it to remove the flesh but it wouldn't fit into any of my cooking pots, and it got so gross that I buried it in the garden. I dug it up last week when my friend, Canadian alt.model and contortionist Visha Loo, was staying with me. We removed his teeth and we're going to use them to make things.

Is there anything else unusual in your home that we should know about?

Just a lot of taxidermy, a few skulls and a giant antique Dracula mirror over my creepy fireplace – nothing that seems unusual to me!

Let's talk about you. Until recently, you worked as a stripper to raise money to go to hairdressing school. What's the world of stripping like?

I got into stripping because I wanted to have more free time to devote to my modelling career. There's a cultivated image of gentlemen's clubs as being exotic, plushly decorated venues that sell an aspirational lifestyle to their clientele – indeed, the popular image of sex work is that it's glamorous, highly paid and easy. The reality is rather different.

The hours are long and it's intensely boring; you end up sitting around until the early hours of the morning, waiting for customers to appear. And when they do, you have to make the same conversation hour after hour, night after night, week after week. It's soul-destroying. Worse still, starting work at 8pm and finishing at 3am or even later messes with your body clock – I found myself getting out of bed on work days as late as 4pm and returning to bed between 6am and 7am the next morning. I rarely saw daylight, my friends or my family.

So it's an incredibly challenging job?

Dealing with men is difficult. Some seem to respect your boundaries and even make an attempt to treat you with respect and dignity, but others don't. It my sounds counter-intuitive and a damning indictment on how we raise our children, but the worst customers are always the younger men – I found them to be sexually aggressive, egocentric and completely disrespectful of my personal boundaries. They made me feel objectified and violated, and because they were threatening I dreaded them coming into the club.

Besides making money to further your studies, was there anything positive in your stripping work?

If there's anything positive I can take from stripping, it's the girls I worked with. We always looked out for each other before, during and after work. I've made loyal and fulfilling friendships that I hope will last for a long time. Whatever we had to face every night, we faced it together, and we were always there for each other.

You've also done webcam sessions. How was that? Was that better than stripping?

I used to do webcam sessions when I wasn't dancing. Webcam is mostly for guys who want to wank, or want you to watch them having a wank, and generally involves domming other guys and getting them to do weird shit. Some of the stories I have are beyond crazy. One guy wanted to be pushed into doing whatever fucked-up thing my sordid imagination could conjure up. So I made him ejaculate onto his coffee table, cut his spunk up into lines, and snort it as though it was cocaine. Another guy could fuck his own arsehole, which I didn't think was physically possible. And he could also fit a champagne bottle, bottom first, into his arse.

Excuse us... rewind a bit. He could do what? How...?

I have no idea. He put his legs over his head and fucked his arse. I've seen everything now, and I didn't want to see everything. This was at 3am, after a heavy night dancing in the clubs, when all I wanted to do was wind down and see what weirdos were on webcam. There was another guy in the UK who wanted to meet up and go shopping with me. But he wanted me to make him wear a used condom, which was apparently one of his fantasies. Thankfully it never happened! →

**“ONE GUY ON
WEBCAM COULD
FUCK
ARSE
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WHICH I DIDN'T THINK WAS
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I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING
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“STRIPPING

IS SOUL-DESTROYING. I RARELY SAW
DAYLIGHT,
MY FRIENDS
OR MY
FAMILY”



**"I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE
MODELLING IN CANADA.
WHEN I MOVED TO
ENGLAND, I FELT**

FREE"



When did you begin your modelling career? Was it back in Canada, or when you moved to London in 2006?

I dabbled with modelling in Canada, along with Visha Loo, who'd just started out as model-photographer duo with her husband. But I felt uncomfortable modelling in Calgary. When I moved to England, I suddenly felt free, like I could do anything. I think that's partly because I grew up in Canada and I know everyone there, and also because the area in which I was raised wasn't really 'me'. If that makes sense...?

Besides boiling up giant skulls and striking sumptuous poses for our pages, what else have you been up to recently?

I was modelling a lot last year, and this year started well – but then I had an operation to have my appendix removed and I was pretty fucked up after that. I always thought having your appendix removed was no big deal, and

that you'd be back in action a few days later, but it's actually a pretty serious operation. *Bizarre's* Mandatron visited me in hospital, but I have no recollection of seeing her – I was off my nut on morphine! It took three weeks before I could do anything, and I couldn't even sleep in my own bed because it was too high to climb into. But now I'm in the middle of an intensive 30-week course to become a hairdresser at Vidal Sassoon. And I'm now also designing my own clothes. That's something I've always wanted to do. My fashion line is going to be called Kiss And Tell.

Is it true you've become friends with *Bizarre* legend and fetish icon, Masuimi Max?

We've only met a few times, but Masuimi is awesome. The first time I met her was at the *Bizarre* Ball in 2011, after I was one of the finalists in the *Bizarre* cover star competition. We hit it off straight away. I went to Los Angeles with Visha Loo and her husband, Jeremy Adshade, some months later, and we did a shoot with Masuimi and stayed with Ash and Michelle Ghoulmore from horror fashion brand *Kreepsville 666*. Then when Masuimi and Morat came to London, alt.model Lucy Fur and I got to party with them at Torture Garden. They're wild! Masuimi is an inspiring person. She's basically a superstar, but she doesn't have any front. She's great fun to hang out with, is really funny, and is simply a personable, genuine and warm human being.

You've had your foot inked by The Enigma, the iconic American freakshow performer and body modification superstar. Have you guys become pals?

I stayed with The Enigma and his girlfriend, Serena Rose, when I was in Los Angeles. They're a phenomenal couple and amazing people. And they're also dangerous performers! One of their stunts, the Kiss Of Death, involves them being blindfolded with an apple between their mouths, and a whirring chainsaw running between them.

Staying with them in LA was quite an experience, and that's when Enigma tattooed a jigsaw piece on my foot. The Enigma has his eyeballs tattooed as well, which basically involved ink being injected into his eyeballs. He says he lost his sight for two weeks afterwards and was literally crying black.

As well as the tattoo you got from The Enigma, you have an amazing ink collection. Who did the rest of your tattoo work?

Phil Kyle at Magnum Opus Tattoo in Brighton and Tutti Serra at Black Garden Tattoo in Covent Garden, London. I find that a lot of tattoo artists these days believe their own hype and regard themselves as rock stars, and as a consequence they're really rude. But that's not true of Phil and Tutti; they're genuine superstars. I'm good friends with both of them now, and they were humble and welcoming from the day I met them. Which is how it should be. →

“MY BUTCHER GAVE ME THIS MASSIVE

PIG'S HEAD,

WHICH WAS THE SIZE OF A FOUR-LITRE JUG OF MILK AND WEIGHED A TON. IT WOULDN'T FIT INTO MY COOKING POT, SO I

BURIED IT IN THE GARDEN”



**"THE ENIGMA HAS HIS EYEBALLS
TATTOOED,
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INJECTED
INTO HIS EYEBALLS. HE SAYS
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WEEKS AFTERWARDS AND
WAS LITERALLY CRYING
BLACK"**



They haven't convinced you to ink your eyeballs like The Enigma, though? Nobody in the world could convince me to try that. My eyesight is bad enough as it is! 15

Want more of the alluring Rayna Terror in your life? The visit the following links:

- Raynaterror.com
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**"I MADE A GUY ON WEBCAM
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ONTO HIS COFFEE TABLE, CUT IT UP INTO
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MEDIEVAL

Broken bones. Heat exhaustion. And the unstoppable Russian war athletes batter the crap out of each other in the annual Battle Of The Nations

WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY @STIVEYKITTEN

PICTURES (UNLESS
OTHERWISE CREDITED)
MISS BRITAIN KITTEN

“**T**he Russians annihilate everyone,” reveals the Scottish knight sitting in the stands next to *Bizarre*, his voice a combination of admiration and bewilderment.

In a small, fenced off battlefield below us, metal-plated warriors from the Ukraine and Russia are swatting each other with broadswords, swinging the heavy weapons as if they're majorettes twirling batons. And the Ukrainian troops are falling fast.

At a nearby wooden railing, one Russian fighter – all tactical astuteness and observation – motors up an improbable speed inside his clunky armour. He spots a Ukrainian hulk standing alone in the centre of the grassy turf and slams viciously into his back. *THUNK!*

As the opponent is propelled through the air, a collective “Ooooh!” goes up from half the spectators, while the rest cackle in schadenfreudian glee. It's like watching a freight train hit a Nissan Micra that's been parked across a level crossing.

“Russia wins!” booms the stadium announcer, sounding like the commentator from *Mortal Kombat*. The grizzled Scot next to us leans back and shakes his head. “The Russians kick the fuck out of everyone,” he sighs.

MAKING BATTLE PLANS

It's June 2014 and *Bizarre* is in Croatia to watch the Battle Of The Nations (BOTN), a four-day tournament regarded as the World Cup of Historical Medieval Battles (or HMB for short).

Now in its fifth year, this year's BOTN is taking place in Kamenlengo Castle, a 15th century fortress in Trogir. Teams from a record 28 nations have marched into the quaint coastal town, each ready →

FIGHT CLUB

machine... *Bizarre* jets out to Croatia to watch armoured Nations. Feel the force of *that* battleaxe on your skull, Luke...

OK, the scarf may
not be 100 per cent
authentic...

BATTLE OF THE NATIONS



PICTURE: DMITRIY PRANTSEV / VARIOUS.COM

to wage war in 1-vs-1 and 5-vs-5 competitions. And for teams with enough recruits, there's even the option to take part in epic 21-vs-21 battles.

Brutal, physically demanding and thrilling to watch, HMB is different to traditional historical re-enactments, which are normally an educational and noncompetitive pastime for war enthusiasts. Instead, HMB is a full-contact combat sport, and the fighters – especially those from Eastern Europe – are robust athletes who take part in punishing training regimes to stay in shape and put on a savage show. And as there are few holds barred in HMB skirmishes, each warrior has to don handcrafted armour that's based on medieval designs before strutting onto the battlefield to smash their rivals with blunted steel weapons.

Generally speaking, the 1-vs-1 battles feel like an entirely different sport, and are judged

on a points-based system similar to boxing, which allows competitors to show off their weapons skills. But it's the larger team battles that are the most bloodthirsty and exciting. The rules here are simple: knock all your foes to the ground until only one team is left standing.

"Some guys run around the battlefield, while others endure the pain of being hit and look for opportunities to strike, which is my style," reveals Team UK's captain, Mark Annable, a charismatic and stocky 43-year-old from Derby. "But we've got one guy on our team, Pasha, who's like a rabbit on steroids. He sprints, he jumps and he kicks. We don't know how he does it. He'll fight like that for 15 minutes without breaking sweat."

BUILDING AN ARMY

Despite its rich medieval history, the UK is a newcomer to HMB. And unlike some of the more experienced teams – where fighters spend much of the year preparing for BOTN – the members of Team UK come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including computer programmers, teachers and a jovial 50-year-old inventor.

The UK entered BOTN for the first time in 2013, when the event was held in Southern France, a journey that was documented by the BBC film *Knight Club* in January this year.

Mark, who co-founded the UK team, says he stumbled upon this "incredible" sport by accident while browsing YouTube. And as the British team led by Mark finished in the top 10 at last year's BOTN, the medieval obsessive has now devoted his life to the sport, and sells high quality armour and weapons through his company, Ravencrest.co.uk.

"When I first saw HMB, I thought it was something that I had to try," Mark says. "When I saw that the US had fielded a team in 2012, I decided I couldn't stand for that. The Americans are always late. And while they may have beaten us to BOTN by a year, Britain has already gone through the Middle Ages... so they're really 500 years late!"

The broadcast of *Knight Club* by the BBC inspired a bunch of new recruits to join the British

side, and with an 18-man squad Mark is able to field three teams in this year's 5-vs-5 tournament.

One new face in the British team is 33-year-old Andy Campbell, a death metal drummer from Manchester who says *Knight Club* introduced him to a sport he couldn't resist throwing himself into.

"What's more brutal than being a death metal drummer...? Medieval fighting!" Andy says. "To get ready for BOTN I've been doing two-mile runs followed by 46-minute workouts every other day. By the end of that, you want to die... but it works!"

However, not everyone who took part in the 2013 British assault has returned to this year's BOTN. Mark attributes this to the financial demands of the sport, where forking out for regulation armour and weaponry can set competitors back more than £1,000 – and that's without taking travel and accommodation into account. This year, seven members of the British team, including Mark, took the penny-saving slow route to Croatia, driving some 1,400 miles across Europe in a Winnebago, with a ton of armour stuffed into a trailer.

"It took us nearly 40 hours to get here, and everyone who took turns to drive collapsed for 12 hours solid as soon as we arrived," says Mark. "It was smelly in that truck. Now I'm concerned about how we're going to get all those swords and axes through customs on the way back..."

REVIVING AULDE ENEMIES

HMB has been an established sport in Eastern Europe since the 1990s. But when the Historical Medieval Battles International Association (HMBIA) launched BOTN in 2010, only four nations competed. Today, the whole world is leaping aboard the galloping warhorse.

Last year 22 nations were represented, and in 2014 28 countries got ready to rumble including Mexico, Israel and Argentina. But this year's most notable progression isn't the number of entrants, but the introduction of a female competition in the 1-vs-1 category. This has attracted fighters from 13 nations – including Luxembourg, France, New Zealand and Australia – and the organisers



hope that the sport's rising popularity amongst women will soon lead to all-lady team bouts.

"There are not many women this year, but next year there will be more," promises Tatiana Guseva, a CrossFit trainer and sword-fighter from Russia who won this year's women's championship. "But it's too early to say whether there will be team battles yet."

In the men's tournament, several countries are making their BOTN debut in Croatia, including Team Scotland, who have entered independently of the main British squad. Inevitably, this has ruffled some feathers.

However, Scottish captain Dave McNaughton argues it's vital that his country remains autonomous given that Scotland and England were enemies in medieval times, and this adds further historical authenticity to the tournament.

"Why ignore medieval history and culture by having a Team UK which competes in the colours of England's St George's cross?" he asks. "Personally, I'd love it if there were individual teams for England, Wales and Ireland. We're actually helping Ireland to find enough people to compete at next year's BOTN."

Dave certainly delivers the most rousing of all speeches at the tournament's opening ceremony, flinging in some history to reveal the significance of his country's debut.

"700 years ago this month, King Robert the Bruce won a great victory for Scotland in the battle of Bannockburn [where Scots battled the English for national independence]," he cries, proudly. "Robert the Bruce was outnumbered two to one, but he won the battle through tenacity, strength and the bravery of his men. Just as they fought strong, we too will fight strong!"

And fight strong the highlanders must, given that the Scottish team only has five troops, while a sixth member had to withdraw with a broken arm. Regardless, the Scottish squad has an enviable pedigree, and includes an ex-army Physical Training instructor, a wrestling champion, and a offshore oil rig worker who used to box gypsies for money.

But captain Dave, a 35-year-old IT contractor and claymore fighter, says that being part of BOTN in 2014 is enough for now, and that trouncing opponents can come further down the line.



FORKING OUT FOR REGULATION ARMOUR AND WEAPONS CAN SET COMPETITORS BACK MORE THAN £1,000

"To have five guys turn up and fly the Scottish flag was our goal this year," he says. "Scotland didn't make it into the football World Cup, so we've already achieved more than our soccer squad did!"

KNIGHTS LIKE THESE...

As BOTN begins, it's hard not to be consumed by the sport's breathtaking theatre and drama.

Away from the blood and guts of the fighting arena there are bards,

bagpipes and blacksmiths ramping up the ambience, making it feel as if you've just been sucked into a Middle Ages timewarp. There are medieval stalls trading in animal rugs, hand-tailored 14th century clothing and sweet-tasting ale.

But while there are plenty of elements to help create an authentic atmosphere, what's most striking are the extreme levels of sweat and testosterone.

One competitor – a monobrowed Swiss fighter with a permanent frown – makes a particular impact on *Bizarre* as he spends the entire weekend strutting around with his shirt off, puffing out his cheeks with ferocious intensity as if he *really* wants to hurt someone. And when he cheers on his compatriots during a fight, his voice is gravelly enough to pave a dozen drives.

When *Bizarre*'s flirtatious photographer, Miss Britain Kitten, asks if she can take his picture following a fight – to try and capture him in all his "sweaty sexiness" – he offers to carry her back to his tent. Miss Kitten, however, declines his offer.

The Finnish team also boasts two formidable-looking giants amongst its 15-man squad. We learn from one of its burly newcomers – a lively, bearded guy with an infectious high-on-life enthusiasm – that the Finns only took up the sport three months ago. But such inexperience doesn't stop them from being crowned as this →



BATTLE OF THE NATIONS



year's 'Best Newcomers', having battered many of the teams that are thrust into their path. That's Viking blood for you...

"We're all crazy Finns!" the excitable warrior bellows. "We met some HMB fighters in St Petersburg, Russia, and they asked if we wanted to come along. We were like, 'Fuck yeah!' We got 14 fighters together in three months, and we've spent every spare second modifying our armour. We haven't fought competitively yet, but most of us have martial arts backgrounds. I practise karate and judo, and we also have a Thai kickboxer and a heavyweight boxer in our team."

But while the best HMB fighters are towering super-brutes, size isn't everything. In fact, it's surprising to note that few of the reigning Russian champions are particularly big. Even the best fighter from Poland, another of the tournament's most feared units, is a small, nimble chap who darts around in his weighty armour, tying his bedraggled opponents in knots.

"Size doesn't matter in this sport," says 5ft 7in Sergio Scabone, a fearsome fighter from Team Argentina. "If anything, weight and height slow you down. If you look at the Russians, they're not trolls – they're fast and aggressive."

THE PAIN GAME

But while speed and militancy are the keys to victory, just how dangerous is HMB? Given that competitors beat each other with a medley of heavy weapons, you might expect Trogir to resemble a Cardiff hospital casualty ward on a Saturday night.

Throughout the weekend, fighters are stretchered away from the battlefield to hearty rounds of applause. By the third day the walking wounded are everywhere, all hobbling around the fortress grounds in bandages, slings, crutches and plasters. But aside from one or two broken bones, nasty injuries are rare. In fact, HMB is remarkably safe... ish.

There are plenty of rules to protect fighters. Weapon blades must be rounded and at least 2mm thick at the striking edge to prevent cutting. Chain and spiked weapons are outlawed, as are manoeuvres involving choking or hacks to the neck. Most importantly, armour and helmets must adhere to strict regulations, and all equipment is thoroughly vetoed by officials before fighters wade into battle.

"When you're in armour, getting hit doesn't hurt because there's too much adrenaline pulsing through you," says Argentina's Sergio. "The most dangerous move is being grabbed in a headlock, or when you fall on your knees."

The armour's resilience to heavy blows is demonstrated during a clash between Moldova and the Czech Republic. As the battle comes to a close, a lone Moldovan knight is forced into a corner and endures a hammering so incessant and fierce that his opponents have to take breathers in between hitting him. In the end, the marshal stops the fight.

"People think HMB is dangerous and bloody, but the armour is there to protect us," insists 27-year-old Darren Glendinning, one of Team UK's newest recruits, who only took up the sport in January and now heads up a HMB club in Lincoln. "I haven't sustained any injuries from fighting people twice my size. When I wore the armour for the first time, we actually had archers shoot us with blunted tips on 35lb arrows!"

For inexperienced fighters, the biggest knockout factor at BOTN is the Croatian heat. Some teams, including members of UK, are forced to withdraw when insufferable 30°C temperatures leave them cooking inside their armour. Only Team UK's first squad survives the heatwave to successfully batter their way through the group stages, overcoming teams from Finland and Croatia before being narrowly upended in the knockout stages by Italy.

Meanwhile, Scotland's campaign gets off to a surprise flyer when they topple Slovakia in their first ever round of sword-thuggery. Unfortunately, the sweltering heat and lack of substitutes swiftly takes its toll, and the bravehearts tumble out of the competition in the group stages.

"Our first fight was great because we were going all at it," reflects former PT army instructor, Miles Hamilton. "But when it comes to the next fight, you're fucking knackered. By the third fight, you think you're dead. And when the fourth fight comes round, you wish you were dead!"

EAST-EUROPEAN SUPER POWER

As the tournament rumbles on, it's clear that the Russians are the team to watch. In a 21-vs-21 battle against the Polish, the Russians pummel their rivals into submission in just over a minute, without suffering any casualties. So what is the secret to Russia's success?

"One major factor is that the Russian team is sponsored, so they have their travel to tournaments financed by an unknown billionaire," says 21-year-old Austrian HMB fighter and BOTN commentator, Mathias Kainz. "Many of the best fighters from Ukraine, who are also great at the sport, simply can't afford to get out of the country to compete internationally."

Other fighters point to the Russians' gruelling training regimes as the secret behind their battlefield

RUMOURS AROUND THAT RUSSIAN TEAM MEMBERS DARE EACH OTHER TO HANG WEIGHTS FROM THEIR SCROTUMS



prowess. "From what I've heard the Russian team features Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighters," says Team UK recruit, Darren. "As MMA is all about sidestepping, grappling and choosing your hits, this gives them an advantage. The Russian team members also get paid to train, so they take it deadly seriously. It's like a job for them."

As the Russian team has become legendary in MBA circles, it's no surprise that outlandish rumours have begun to circulate. One story suggests that, behind tent doors, the Russian fighters have been piercing their scrotums to see how much weight they can hang from their privates – just for a laugh. And while that may sound far-fetched, the Russians are definitely equipped to withstand pain. When *Bizarre* speaks to one Russian fighter, the 27-year-old, dreadlocked warrior says he's broken his back, his knees, his legs and many fingers during his HMB career. But still he fights on – and wins.

CONQUERING THE WORLD

Most competitors at BOTN would like to see HMB recognised as a serious sport in their homeland, so that they can attract sponsorship and go professional. But the first step in this process is to expand the sport's domestic scene, a mission that Team UK's Mark takes seriously.

Mark has already played an important role in creating clubs in England, which are led by fighters from the current British squad. Mark hopes these organisations will eventually act like football clubs, with chapters for various geographical regions.

At the same time, Dave McNaughton – who has already established four clubs and training schools as part of the Scottish Knight League (Scottishknightleague.org) – is hoping to establish more teams north of the border.

"I've recruited some of the best trainers such as Frazer Hirsch, who was a European wrestling champion, and David Britten, who is a European longsword champion," he says. "Once the popularity of the sport has risen, we'll have a Scottish league and host tournaments. Then, as in Russia, the best fighters will be selected for the Scotland national team. But it's early days."

HMB's global growth has already resulted in new international tournaments. Many of the top fighters from America, Poland and Germany have recently formed a splinter organisation – International Medieval Combat Federation (IMCF) – largely because they were unhappy with the Russian dominance of the HMBIA.

The IMCF, whose president is former Polish BOTN captain, Hubert Filipiak, even hosts a rival international tournament, the IMCF World Wide Championship (Medieval-combat.org), which debuted in Spain in May.

Many see this split as detrimental to the growth of the sport, especially as many fighters can't afford the cost of fighting at both tournaments.

"It's too early for the sport to have two federations," one HMB fighter tells us, sorrowfully. "The sport is still too young and embryonic, so it's not an ideal development at all."

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Whatever happens with the rival federations, HMB enthusiasts are confident that the sport will still become huge.



PICTURE: DMITRY FRANTSEV / VAPRIODOT.COM

As a form of spectator entertainment, HMB is old school, gladiatorial warfare with a family-friendly twist, and for those competing it offers an empowering adrenaline rush.

"Running around in armour is fucking awesome," enthuses UK's Andy Campbell. "People think you're crazy, but it's not as brutal as you think. I'll definitely be back next year and training for it like a beast in the meantime."

But aside from the rampaging melees, the most incredible thing about HMB is the sense of community that exists between fighters from different nations. It's almost as if the world of HMB occurs in its own vacuum, sealed off from modern society and political unrest. After all, where else can you find fighters from Russia and Ukraine smashing each other to pieces, and then embracing

each other afterwards as though they were brothers?

Weapons and armour must be accurately modelled on designs from the 1200s to the 1600s

But that's not to say this warm sense of comradeship makes stepping into battle any less daunting for newbies. In fact, that couldn't be further from the truth...

"One of my guys, Stewart Gammage, has been in the British Army," says Mark. "He's been shot at, had things exploding all around him, yet he says he's never been so terrified as the first time walked into the arena and saw five big guys waiting to make his life a living hell. But he also says that he's never felt so alive! When this happened, he finally understood why I'm so passionate about this sport."

BOTN commentator Mathias has one final theory about the sport's strange allure – something a little deeper and more magical.

"People need heroes, and they look to the Middle Ages because it was a time when brave warriors thrived," he says. "That's why I think everyone who discovers this sport falls in love with it."

For more on the Battle Of The Nations, visit Botn.info, Battleofthenations.org and [Facebook.com/BattleOfTheNationsUKFederation?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/BattleOfTheNationsUKFederation?ref=ts), and Battleofthenations.ua

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Welcome to

JESUS WORLD!

An unholy union between Christian teachings and Disneyland, Argentina's Tierra Sierra is the weirdest theme park on the planet. →



Roman centurions in full battle gear, posing for iPhone photos with giggling teenagers. Dozens of life-size statues of biblical heroes and villains, including over 100 dewey-eyed Jesuses.

Commercial aircraft howling overhead as they wing their way in and out of Buenos Aires Airport. Fake plastic trees, souvenir shops, excited nuns, holy animatronics, pizza cafes... and a 40ft tall robo-Christ that rises from his grave once an hour, benevolently smiling as Handel's 'Messiah' rattles from a secret boombox. Welcome to Tierra Santa, Argentina's most surreal tourist attraction, where the cheerful tackiness of Disneyland collides head-on with devout Catholicism.

Opened in 2000 on a 17 acre plot that used to be a football pitch – and inaugurated by Pope Francis when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires – Tierra Sierra attracts over 20,000 visitors each summer, particularly during Easter week when long queues of pilgrims form outside the park, waiting patiently to pay homage to the park's enormous fibreglass Jesus.

Although not as flashy as Orlando's Holy Land Experience in the USA – or as expensive as Kentucky's recently opened Ark Encounter – Tierra Sierra was the world's first Christian theme park, and has become a favourite spot for Argentinians who want to celebrate their faith, and a mecca for camera-clicking tourists seduced by its cheesy attractions and overwhelming kitsch.

But Tierra Sierra isn't about roller coasters, water slides and candy floss; instead, the park is a faithful recreation of the streets of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, where visitors can explore 37 simulations of key events in the bible, all the way from creation to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. And if you're a nun, you can jump the queue and get in for free.

Join *Bizarre* as we take a stroll through the streets of Tierra Sierra. And if you're tired, don't worry – we can stop for a beer at the Gate Of Damascus burger bar if you fancy a break. **15**

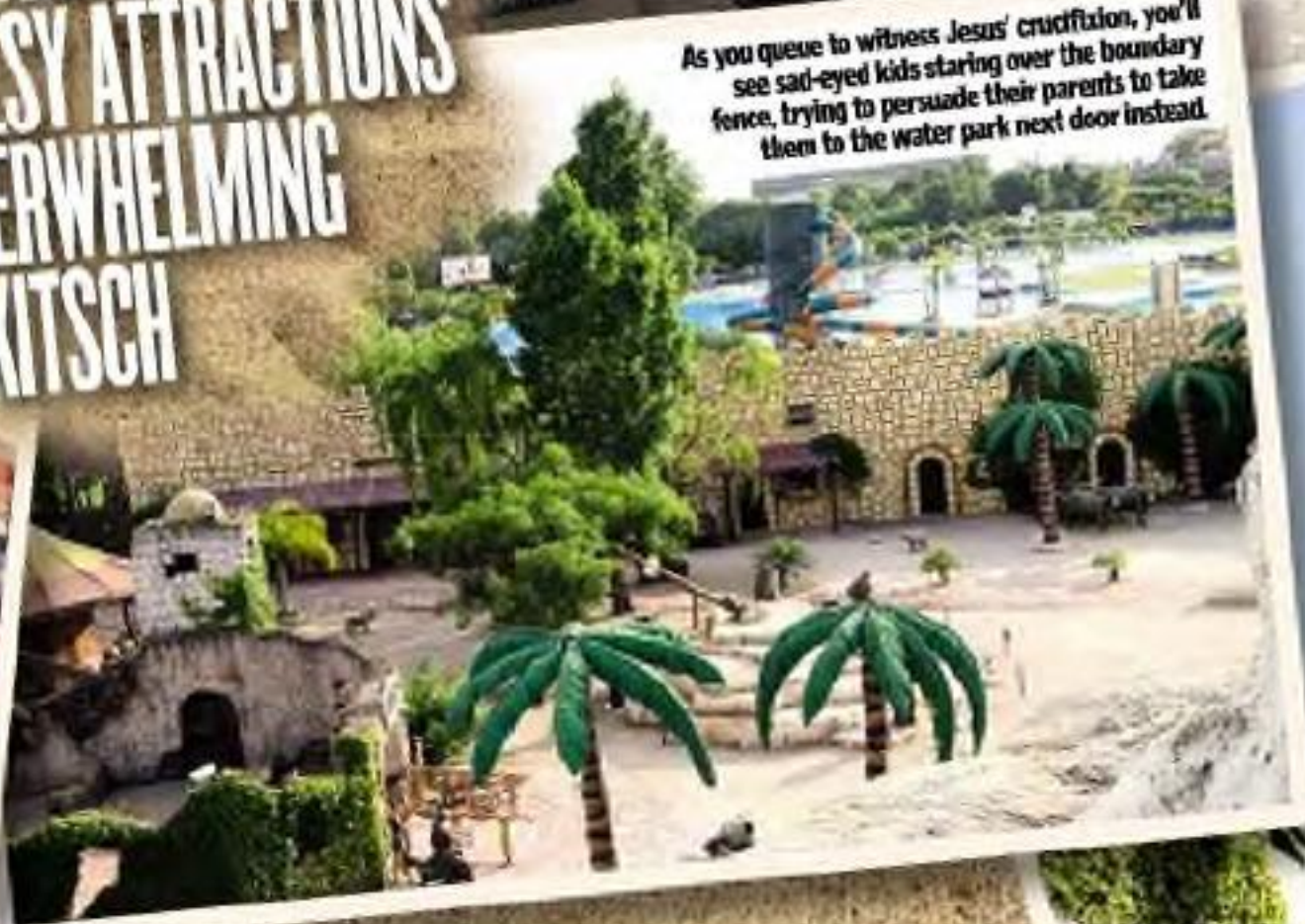
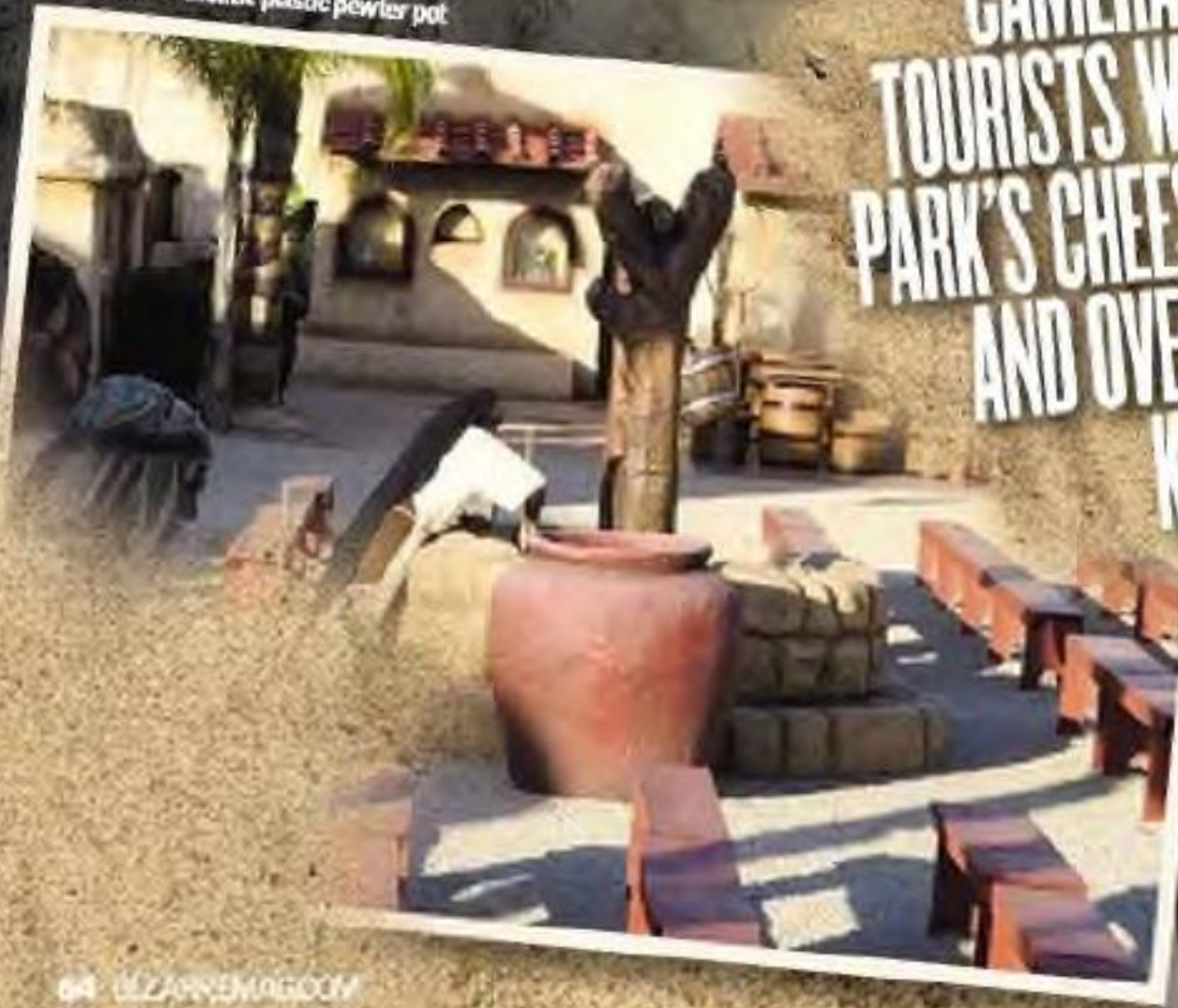
Tierra Santa is open from Friday to Sunday and during public holidays. Find out more at Tierrasanta-bsas.com.ar



BELOW We don't think this cleaner spotted *Bizarre* taking pics, and she sneakily tipped the rubbish she'd swept up into this authentic plastic pewter pot

**A MECCA FOR
CAMERA-CLICKING
TOURISTS WHO ADORE THE
PARK'S CHEESY ATTRACTIONS
AND OVERWHELMING
KITSCH**

As you queue to witness Jesus' crucifixion, you'll see sad-eyed kids staring over the boundary fence, trying to persuade their parents to take them to the water park next door instead

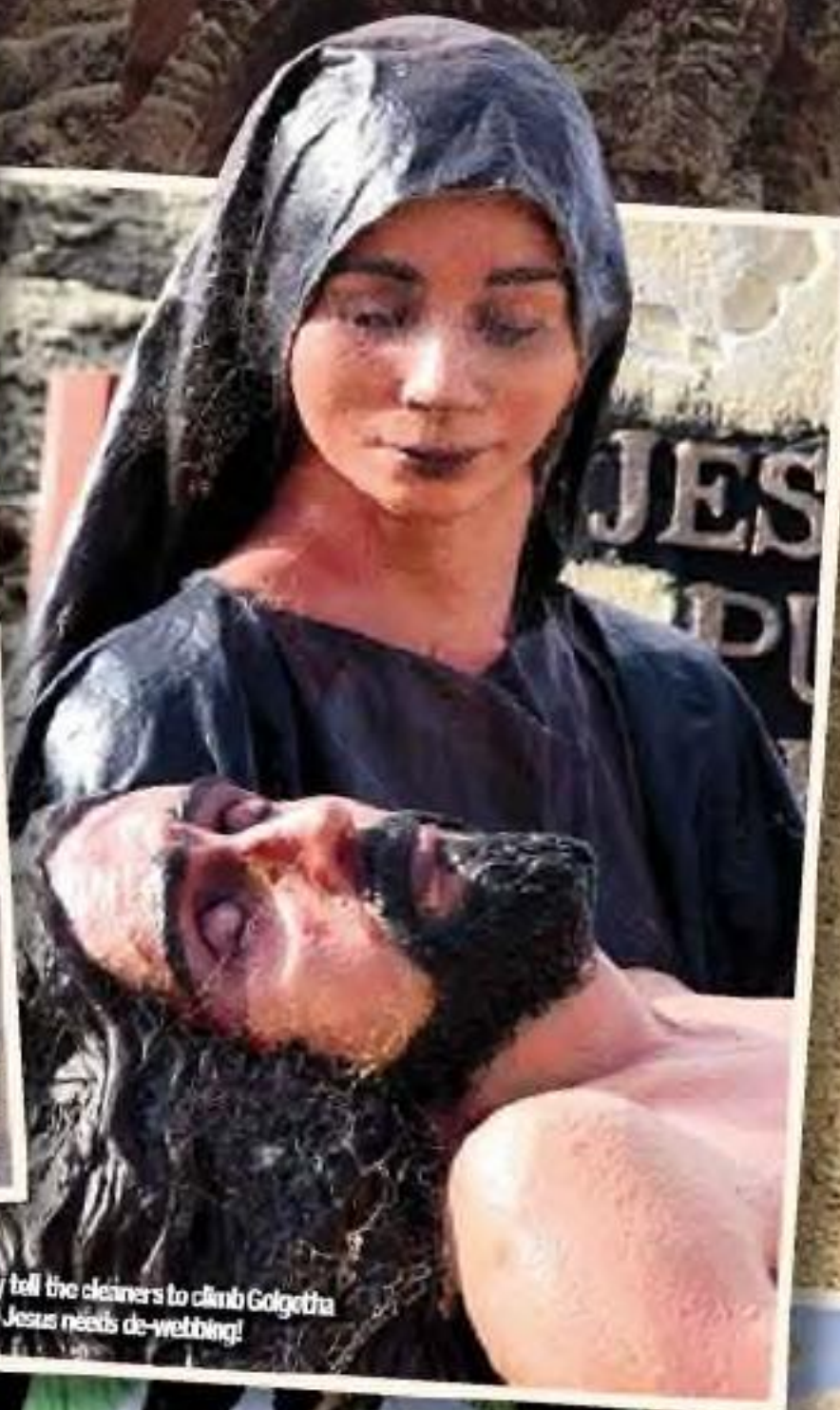




Although there are no water slides or roller coasters, Tierra Sierra features a roundabout - the Rotating Ark Of Joseph - where the hobby horses have been replaced by animals common in the bible, including camels and donkeys. As the animals spin, 'Little Drummer Boy' plays on loop.



The architects of Tierra Santa may have spent millions on creating convincing statues, but the park managers aren't so conscientious when it comes to day-to-day presentation.



Somebody tell the cleaners to climb Golgotha sharpish - Jesus needs de-webbing!

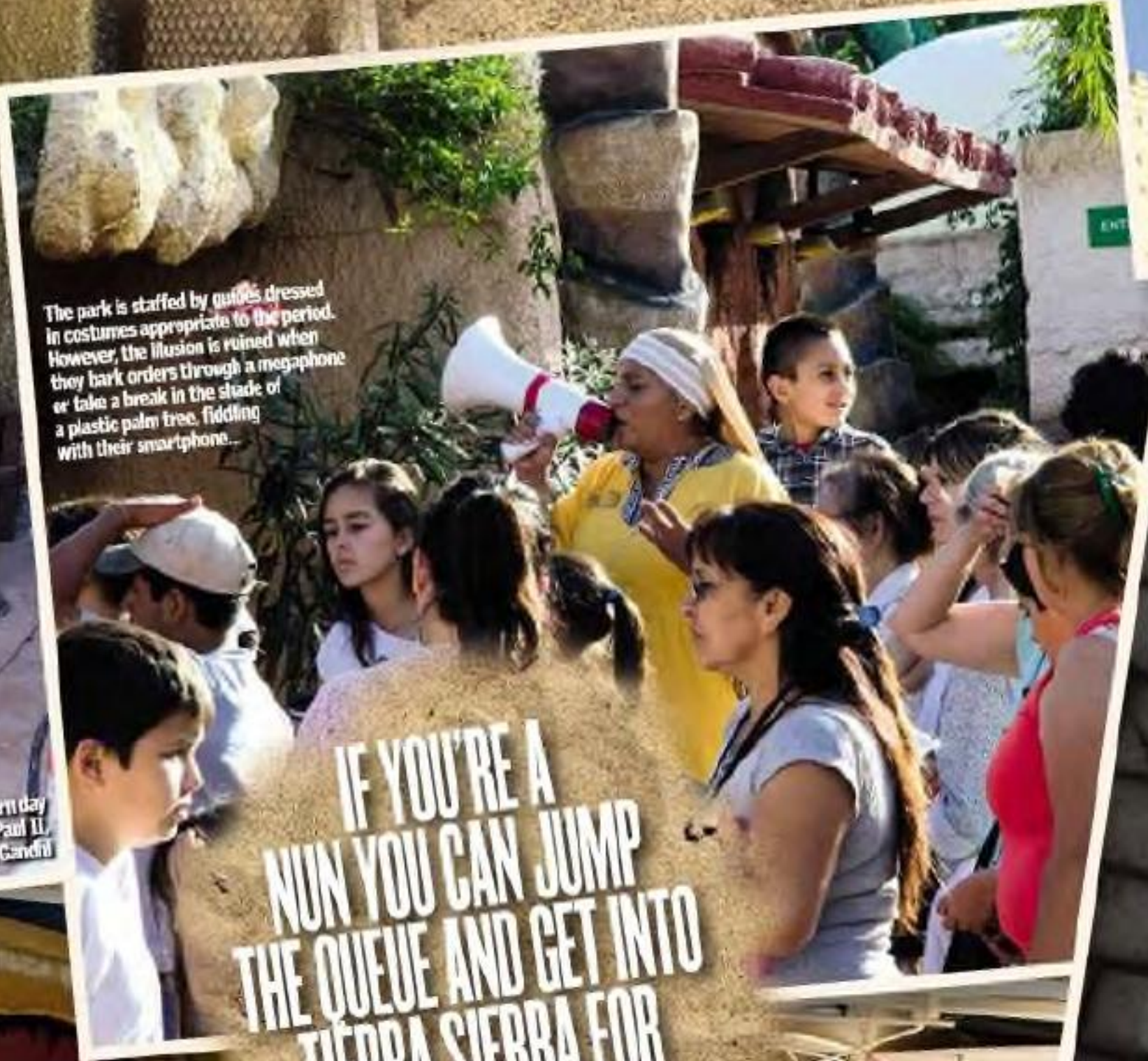
The statues showing Jesus' treatment at the hands of the Romans are unflinchingly cruel. During parades at Easter the statues are replaced by a real bearded man who plays JC, and whose body is soaked in fake blood.

As Tierra Sierra is next door to one of Buenos Aires' major airports, the illusion of stepping back into ancient times is often shattered by 747s screeching overhead.





The park features statues of modern day do-gooders such as Pope John Paul II, Mother Theresa and Mahatma Gandhi.



The park is staffed by guides dressed in costumes appropriate to the period. However, the illusion is ruined when they bark orders through a megaphone or take a break in the shade of a plastic palm tree, fiddling with their smartphone...

IF YOU'RE A NUN YOU CAN JUMP THE QUEUE AND GET INTO TIERRA SIERRA FOR FREE



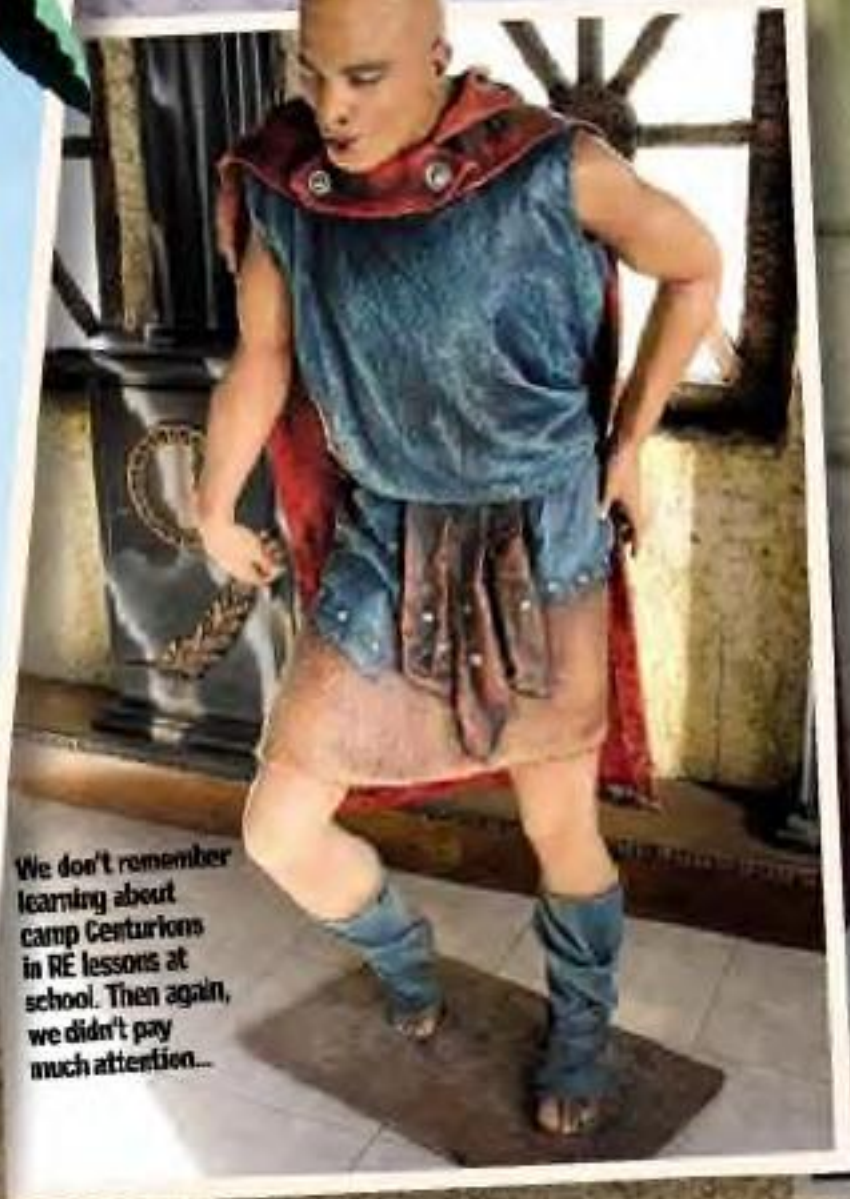
Tourists come from all over the world to visit Tierra Sierra, but it's hard to suspend your disbelief and imagine you're in ancient Jerusalem when there's a fat kid squeezed into a Captain America T-shirt taking photos of grim-faced mannequins



Statues and animatronics are used to tell the story of Jesus' life - look, there's JC's mum!



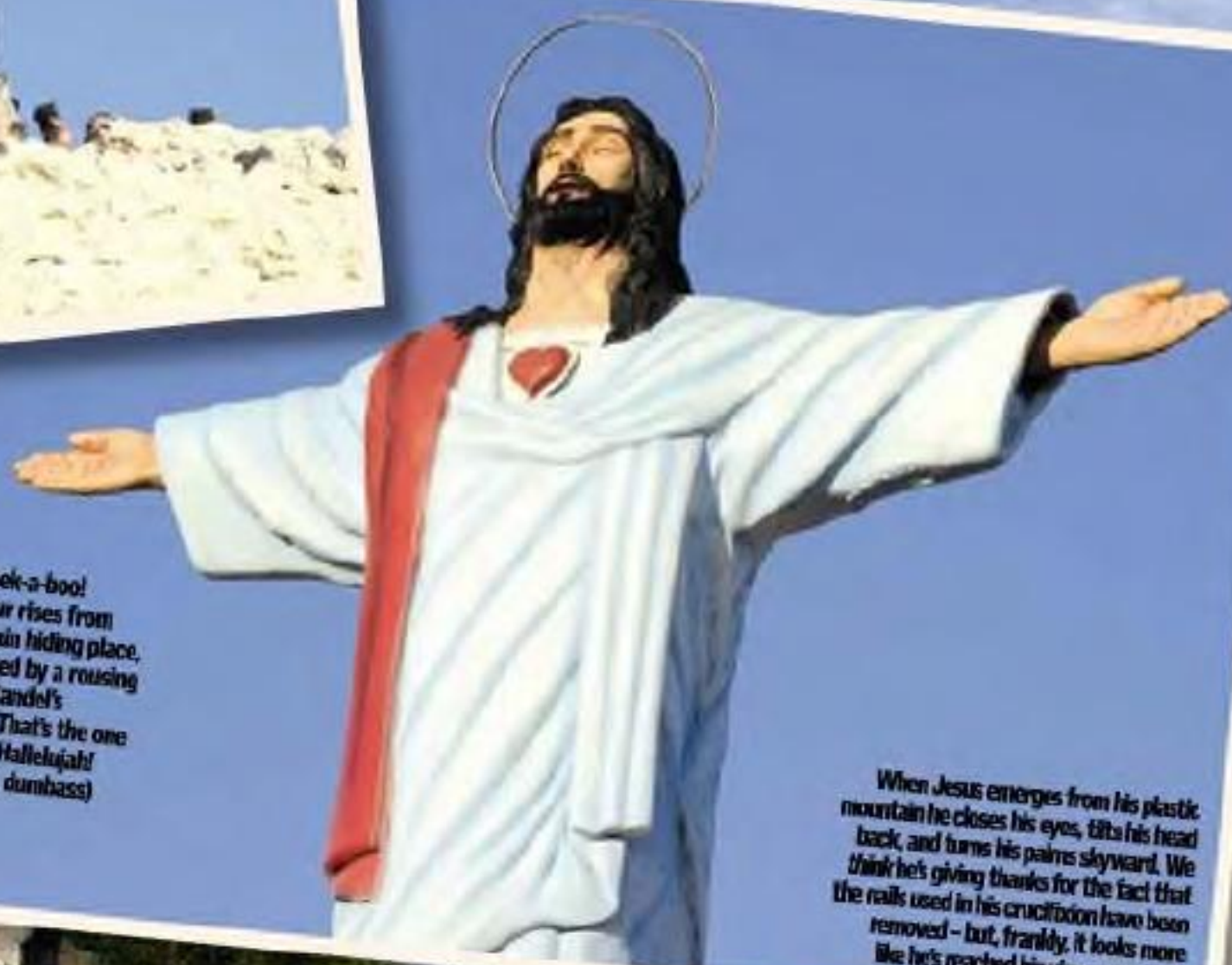
In their attempt to create a convincing ancient world, the architects of Tierra Sierra took every opportunity to hide elements of the modern world... sometimes more successfully than others



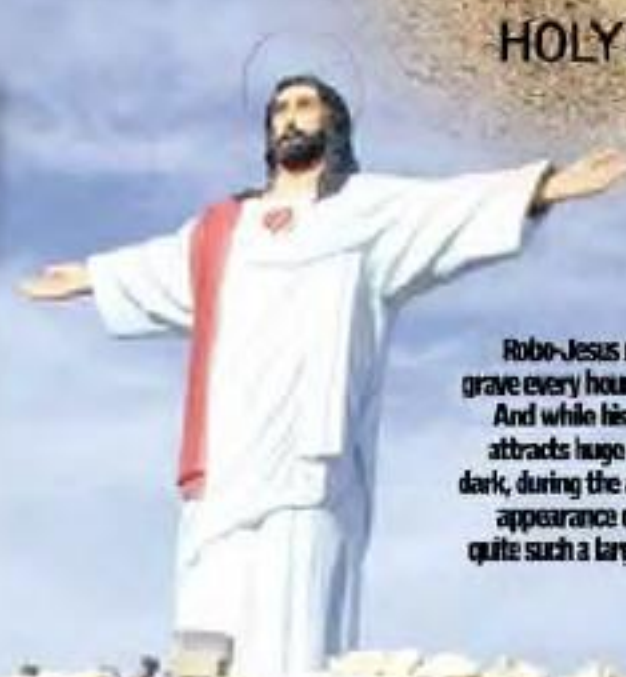
We don't remember learning about camp Centurions in RE lessons at school. Then again, we didn't pay much attention...



ABOVE Peek-a-boo! Our Saviour rises from his mountain hiding place, accompanied by a rousing chorus of Handel's 'Messiah'. (That's the one that goes, 'Hallelujah! Hallelujah!', dumbass)



When Jesus emerges from his plastic mountain he closes his eyes, tilts his head back, and turns his palms skyward. We think he's giving thanks for the fact that the nails used in his crucifixion have been removed - but, frankly, it looks more like he's reached his vinegar strokes



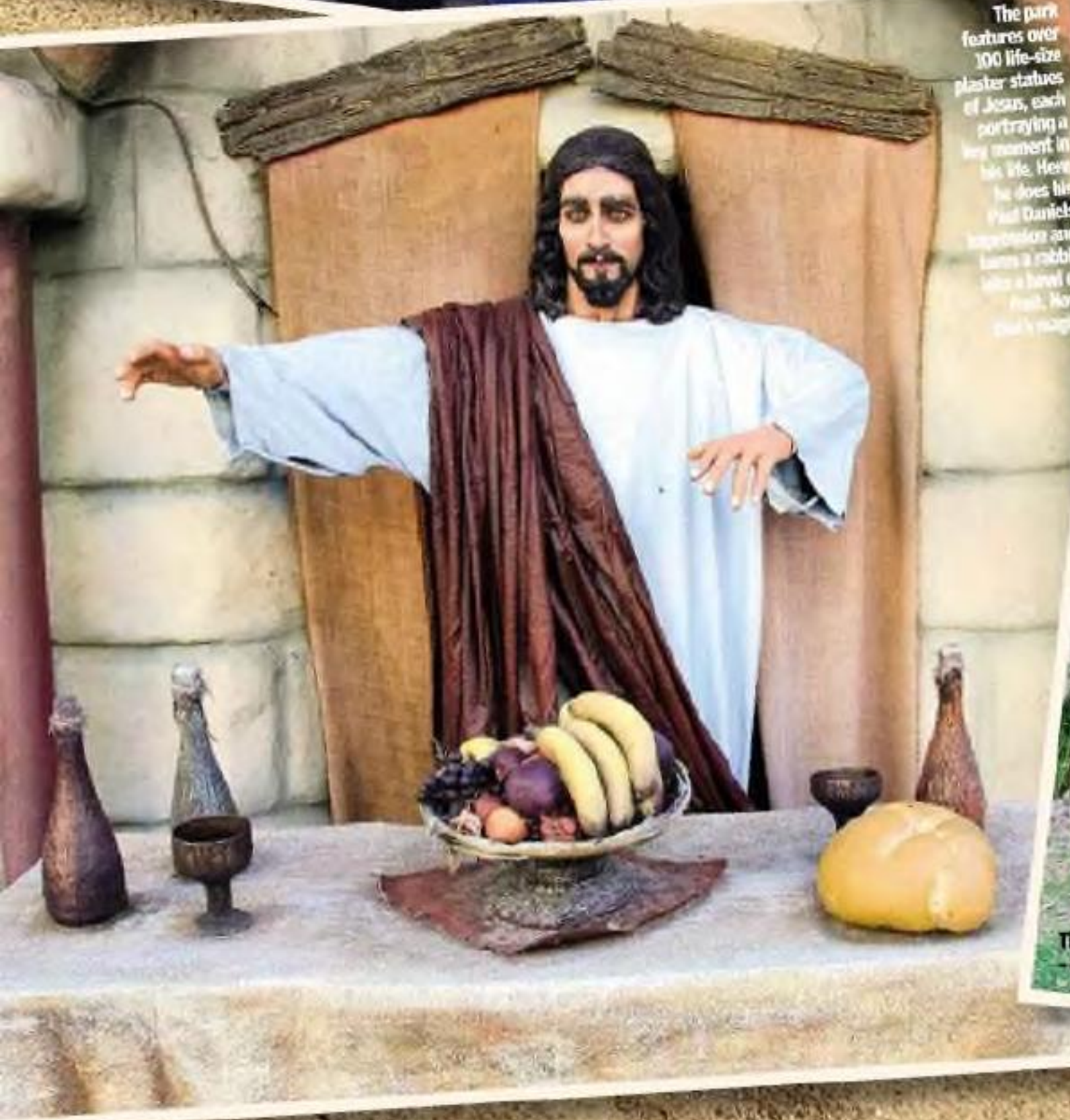
Robo-Jesus rises from his grave every hour, on the hour. And while his resurrection attracts huge crowds after dark, during the afternoon his appearance doesn't pull in quite such a large audience...



AN 18FT TALL ROBO-CHRIST RISES FROM THE GRAVE ONCE AN HOUR



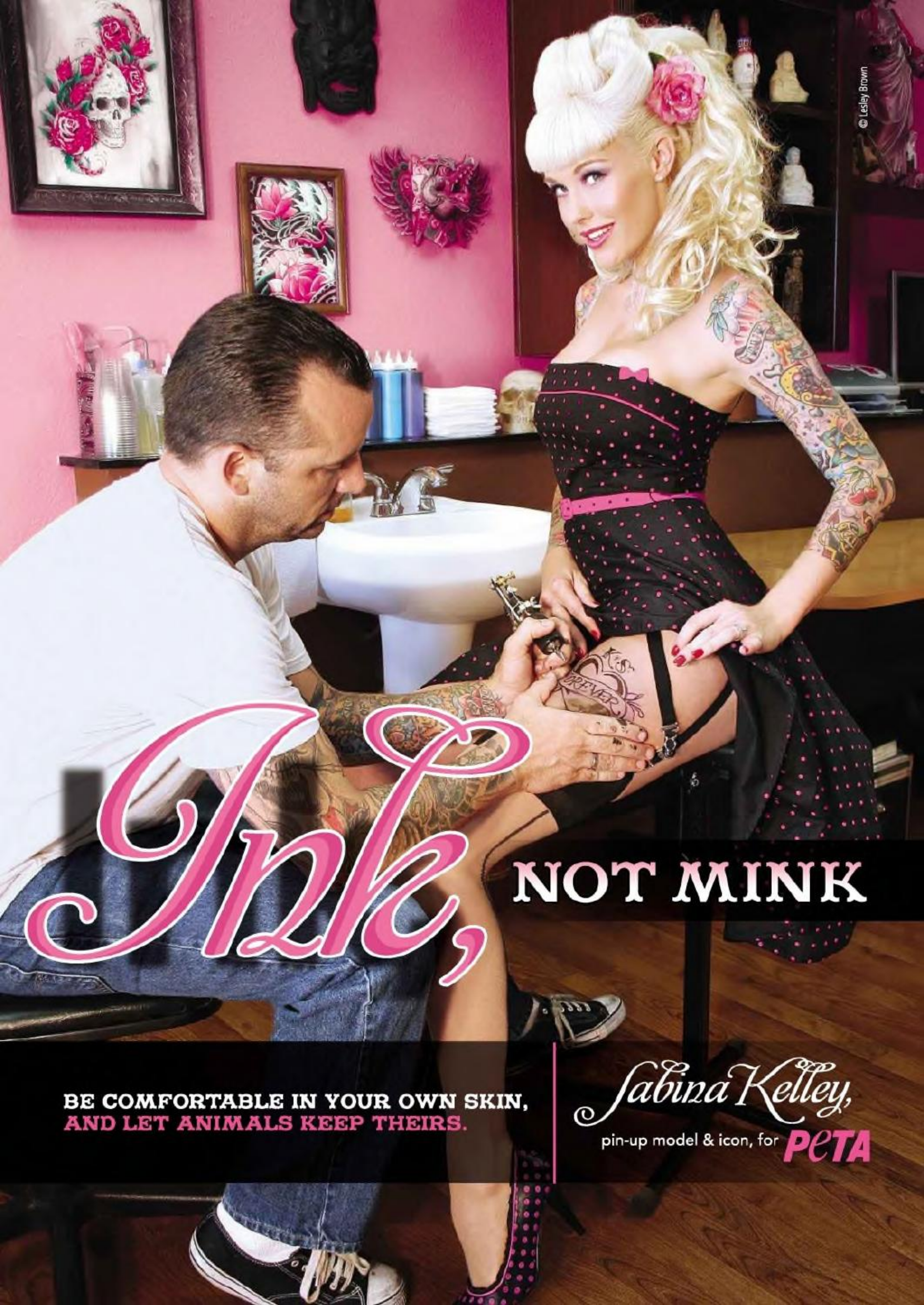
In the evening, Jesus' hourly resurrections attract a huge crowd that 'Oohs!' and 'Aahs!' as he rises from his plastic mountain



The park features over 100 life-size plaster statues of Jesus, each portraying a key moment in his life. Here he does his final breaths and takes a rabbit into a bowl of fruit. How that's changed!



Thanks for visiting - please come again!



It's

NOT MINK

BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR OWN SKIN,
AND LET ANIMALS KEEP THEIRS.

Sabrina Kelley,
pin-up model & icon, for **PETA**

QUEEN OF FILTH

Most of the sickos who read this filthy rag probably know Divine as the turd-scoffing drag diva from John Waters' *Pink Flamingos*. But if you want to find out more about this doyenne of trash culture, the new documentary *I Am Divine* will take you beneath the make-up of gross-out cinema's most celebrated provocateur...

WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY

"People love to laugh at sex, they love to laugh at dirty things and they love to be shocked," said bolder-than-brass Divine during a 1970s interview for American cable show, *The Emerald City*. "So my job is to go out there and shock them!"

As job descriptions go, this self-prescribed remit by the undisputed queen of filth isn't something you're likely to find at your local careers centre (sadly). But as Divine spent his life celebrating the power of shock with the same relish as a sweat

fetishist in a dirty laundry basket, *Bizarre* salutes him as a true hero of alternative culture.

An overweight Baltimore kid turned drag superstar – who rose to prominence in John Waters' first wave of bad taste flicks in the late 1960s and 70s – Divine enjoyed one of the most revered, reviled and cherished careers in outsider history.

Divine ate real dog shit in *Pink Flamingos*, and masturbated with rosary beads in *Multiple Maniacs*. He also became an unlikely sex icon and moved from midnight movie screens into the US theatre circuit, where he entertained and →

SIMPLY DIVINE

enraged live audiences across the US with his fucked-up stage routines.

Divine carved a trail of filth through North America's underground clubs, becoming a huge smash with gay audiences. Then, as the rebellious 1970s became the romantic 1980s and the mainstream world began to embrace camp, the flamboyant showboater enjoyed success as a disco diva, and his gruff vocals featured in a series of chart hits. One single, 'You Think You're A Man', somehow snuck past BBC bosses and ended up being performed on Blighty's prime time chart show, *Top Of The Pops*. What's more, it's a damned good tune!

Californian film-maker, Jeffrey Schwarz – who already had a pedigree for making films about outsiders, including 1970s grot star, Jack Wrangler, and gay activist, Vito Russo – recognised that there was a gaping cultural void that needed to be filled with Divine's story, which is more colourful than an explosion in a Crayola factory. And while he was working on the DVD extras for the 2007 version of *Hairspray* – a remake of John Waters' mainstream smash – he had the idea to shoot a biography. And so *I Am Divine* was born.

Divine's friends, including Waters, flocked to Schwarz's camera to unite in praise for their former



cohort in filth. And while Divine's friends hail him as a "cinematic terrorist" and "an outlaw", Schwarz began to chip away at Divine's make-up to reveal more about the person beneath the drag...

"In *I Am Divine*, it was important to go beyond the layers of eyeliner, wigs and hairspray to find the real person," says Schwarz. "Divine was a fantastic and brave performer, a fine actor and a warm, generous person. I want people to get to know the man behind the mask of the Divine character."

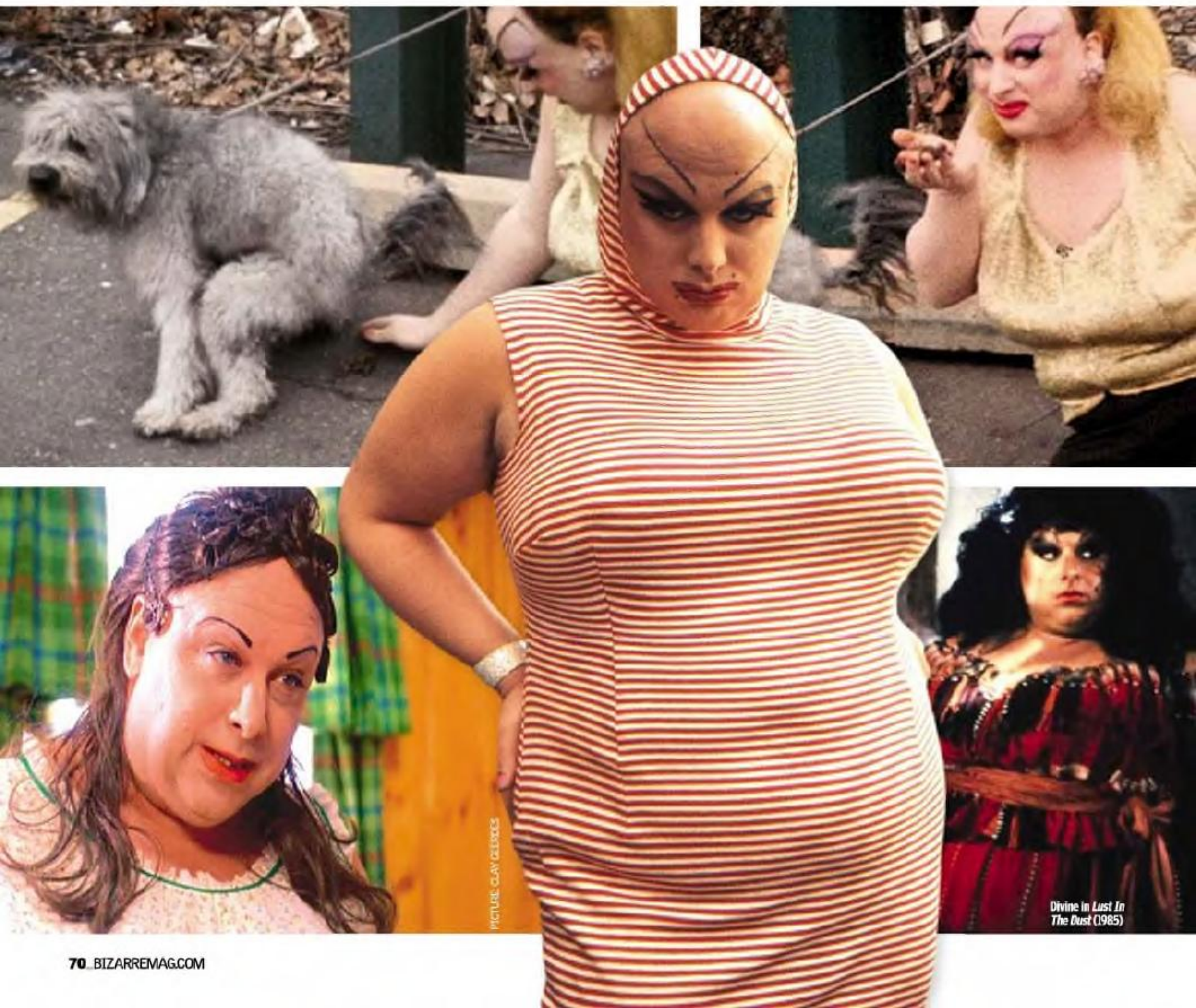
A STAR IS BORN

Divine was born Harris Glenn Milstead on 19 October 1945 in Baltimore, Maryland, to wealthy middle class parents. But from the day he was born, Milstead was a strange lad...

Effeminate and tubby – with a gluttonous appetite that could clear dining tables quicker than a spritz of Cillit Bang – Milstead was routinely bullied during his school years. It wasn't until the 1960s when he fell in with fellow Baltimore misfit, John Waters, that Milstead finally found his social niche.

By this stage Milstead had realised he was gay, and he joined Waters in developing a social circle that included queers, potheads and beatniks, which the duo named 'Dreamlanders' after the Dreamland Productions film studio that Waters had founded.

PICTURE: ROBYN BEECHE



Divine in *Lust In The Dust* (1985)

DIVINE

“WAS A FANTASTIC AND
BRAVE PERFORMER,
A FINE ACTOR,
AND A WARM,
GENEROUS PERSON”

JEFFREY SCHWARZ

PICTURE: GREG GORMAN

Waters says that Milstead always wanted to be a star, and that he advised his friend to create the cantankerous drag persona that brought his early films to life. Waters also christened his friend's brassy alter ego, and Milstead slipped into the role of Divine as if it were a second skin.

Divine made his screen debut in Waters' first wave of films, including outrageous, low-budget trash such as *Mondo Trasho* (1969) and *Multiple Maniacs* (1970), which gleefully portrayed socially unacceptable scenes such as the drag queen being raped by a dude in a giant lobster suit. But it was *Pink Flamingos* in 1972 that catapulted Divine into the underground's murky limelight.

In the film Divine plays Babs Johnson; a depraved sicko who's fighting off the competition to be crowned the world's filthiest person. According to Schwarz, it was the most extreme thing Divine ever did. And that's saying something.

The film's most notorious scene sees Divine following a dog and waiting for it to take a dump. And when the mutt finally poops, Divine scoops

up the dog eggs and eats them, grinning and gagging for the camera (see left).

"Pink Flamingos still packs a punch, especially with people who haven't seen it before," says Schwarz. "And not just the dog shit moment. The scene where Divine gives her son a blow job is one of the most transgressive moments in any movie. But John and Divine were making those films to shake up the love generation. They wanted to scare hippies and become famous. And it worked."

DUDE LOOKS LIKE A LADY

As planned, *Pink Flamingos* shocked and assaulted midnight movie audiences, and there are reports of people vomiting in the aisles – which Waters considers to be the equivalent of a standing ovation.

Following its release, Divine finally told his conservative parents about his sexuality and secret film career. Sadly, his revelations went down like a John Wayne Gacy gag at a children's party, and the distraught Divine eloped to seek acceptance in San Francisco, the US hub of counterculture.

In San Francisco, which had a buzzing gay community, Divine performed with psychedelic drag troupe The Cockettes, and became a foul-mouthed sensation in underground theatres. And as the 1970s wore on, Divine began appearing in provocative productions such as Tom Eyen's *Women Behind Bars*, which was a blackly comic spoof of 1950s exploitation films.

However, it wasn't until 1982 that Divine really got to flex his acting muscles on the big screen. This time the vehicle was John Waters' *Polyester*, a satire of suburban life that's widely regarded as one of the director's finest.

In the film Divine plays a long-suffering housewife, Francine Fishpaw, whose dysfunctional home features a glue-sniffing son with a fetish for stomping on women's feet. It was completely different to anything Divine had played before.

In the film, Fishpaw's dream lover was played by Tab Hunter, a Hollywood heartthrob with a CV that included some 30 respectable movies. And when the duo enjoyed a slobbery kiss on →

SIMPLY DIVINE

screen, people began to speculate whether there was genuine romance between them (of course, that rumour was bullshit). Still, you can only imagine the kind of impact that scene had in 1982...

"I love Divine's performance as Francine Fishpaw," enthuses Schwarz. "After playing a monster in so many films, it's great to see him play a victim for a change. And the love scene with Tab was a big deal. It was the first time a major Hollywood star had appeared in a John Waters film, and it was brave of Tab to do it. I don't think people were expecting the kiss, and when it happened audiences went nuts."

GENDER BENDING

Despite the lack of sparks between Tab and Divine, Waters' muse was promiscuous in his private life. In *I Am Divine*, one friend remembers him as a "very sexual person", while others claim he never had a shortage of handsome suitors. He also enjoyed a long-term relationship with a married



Divine (right) in *Lust In The Dust*, directed by Paul Bartel (1985)

man known as Lee, and famously had a fling with the hunky adult star, Leo Ford.

"I was happy to find out that he had 'a lover in every port', as someone in the film says," reveals Schwarz. "There's a cliché about drag performers, that they have trouble getting dates, but Divine didn't have that problem. I'd love to have spoken with Leo Ford for the film, but unfortunately he's in porn star heaven."

While *Polyester* demonstrated Divine's ability to pull off a challenging role, it was always his goal to play a male character on the big screen. In fact, Divine's typecasting as a fiery drag queen got on his (false) tits. "When you're good at something and the public identifies you with it, it can be really hard to break out of it," says Schwarz.

Gender is one of the most curious aspects of Divine's life. Milstead never harboured a desire to be female, and he wasn't a transvestite. Divine was simply an alter ego for his performances. Away from the stage and screen, Milstead could be found

**"THE SCENE WHERE
DIVINE GIVES HER
SON
A
BLOW JOB
ON CAMERA IS ONE OF THE
MOST TRANSGRESSIVE
MOMENTS IN ANY MOVIE"**

JEFFREY SCHWARZ

PICTURE: GREG GORMAN



in his regular, gregarious male guise, and many of his interviews and public appearances were conducted without Divine's garish clobber.

"Divine was not transgender, and he never considered himself to be a drag queen, cross-dresser or transvestite," says Schwarz. "He used to say that he was happy with his 'equipment', and was an actor that specialised in playing female parts."

Divine finally got to play a male character in John Waters' 1985 film *Trouble In Mind*, but it was the director's most commercially successful flick, *Hairspray* (1988), which saw Divine playing both a male and a female character, even though the former – a TV station owner – was a minor role.

After *Hairspray* critics and audiences began to recognise Divine's talents, and it seemed as if he was on the verge of the breakthrough he craved. Following *Hairspray*, Divine was even invited to appear in an episode of US sitcom *Married... With Children*, a sign of his mainstream acceptance.

But in a cruel twist of fate, tragedy struck three weeks after *Hairspray* was released. As he'd eaten

obsessively throughout his entire life, Divine's weight was pushing the 400lb mark, and on the night of 7 March 1988, while staying at a hotel in Los Angeles, Milstead suffered a cardiac arrest in his sleep and died. He was just 42-years-old.

LASTING LEGACY

Divine remains one of the most popular and recognisable faces of outsider culture. Schwarz says it's an honour to have found an opportunity to explore facets of Divine's personality that have never been presented to the public before, and for that he owes a huge debt to John Waters.

"Once I got the blessing of Waters, the Pope of Trash, all systems were go," Schwarz says. "I could not have made *I Am Divine* without his support, so that was the first call I made. He knew my work and trusted that Divine's story would be in good hands. John helped me so much by getting in touch with all the people I was hoping to interview, and letting them know it was OK to speak with me. I worship that man!"

BIZARRE READERS ARE DIVINE

Via Bizarre's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/bizarremagazine](https://www.facebook.com/bizarremagazine), we invited readers to dress up as Divine and recreate his iconic make-up. Here are some of the best pics...



Lee Jenkins AKA Divine: Intervention



Steven Moon



Mandator's man



Rachelle Crydenon

After getting Waters' blessing, Schwarz touched base with Frances Milstead, Divine's mother, who was still alive at the time of production. Divine had made peace with his parents before he died, and his mother was "totally supportive" of Schwarz's film and provided some rare photos and home movies.

I Am Divine is packed with archive footage and interviews with many of the original Dreamlanders, and is a fine tribute to a man whose mission to shock saw him dubbed by critics as the 'Goddess of Gross'. But as the documentary also shows, he was a sweet, professional and warm human being.

"Divine couldn't have been more different than the characters he played in Waters' films," says Schwarz. "He is an inspiration to outsiders, rebels and freaks of all kinds. But a new generation is now coming of age without Divine in their lives, and I hope this film restores him to his proper place as the Queen Mother of misfits." **B**

I Am Divine is out on DVD and on-demand now from Peccadillo Pictures

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BEAVER PATROL

WORDS STEPHEN DAULTREY

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DAWN OF THE ZOMBIE BEAVERS

New 1980s-style creature feature *Zombeavers* is the craziest
— and funniest — monster flick we've seen in a 'dam' long time... →

BEAVER PATROL



It's amazing how life can sometimes give film-makers free promotion, even if the events are pretty nasty...

"There have been a few beaver attacks in the press recently, which is pretty insane," recalls *Zombeavers*' New York-born director, Jordan Rubin, not quite sure whether to smirk or grimace.

"A fisherman in Belarus was brutally 'murdered' by a beaver in 2013, and I also saw a video where some beavers attacked a guy. It was pretty vicious, but I guess you could describe that as free publicity."

But even if these stories failed to flip your preconceptions of beavers as cute, goofy-toothed river dwellers, Rubin's crazy-assed debut feature will swiftly change your mind.

A delirious blend of gore, bikinis, genital gags and Troma-esque cheek, *Zombeavers* is a tale of undead (or 'chemically-altered') beavers terrorising college kids at a lakeside

cabin. It's got half-naked girls, cocky fratboys having their feet chewed off, and armies of menacing furballs orchestrating vicious, tactical attacks. In other words it's good, wholesome fun.

Jordan makes no bones that his "ridiculous" comedy thriller harks back to the glory days of puppet-powered creature classics such as *Gremlins* (1984) and *Critters* (1986). In fact, the film's animatronic antagonists were designed by Creature Effects' Mark Rappaport, an industry legend whose credits include *Demonic Toys* (1992), *Army Of Darkness* (1992) and *Killer Klowns From Outer Space* (1988). That's some serious cult history right there.

We caught up with former stand-up comedian Jordan and effects maestro Mark to find out whether these zombie beavers are even more troublesome pets than raccoons. Apparently, they are...

Who came up with the *Zombeavers* idea?

JORDAN: I'd written two comedy shorts with my writing partners, Jon and Al Kaplan, who scored this film. I suggested we try a horror film, and they said, "Hey, how about zombie beavers?" I fell down laughing! They said, "No, we're serious," and I was like, "So am I. That's the funniest thing I've ever heard!"

Is there an ongoing competition amongst film directors to make the craziest creature villains? Over the last 60-odd years we've had killer tomatoes, killer shrews and now, well... zombie beavers.

JORDAN: Yes! While we were shooting *Zombeavers* the first *Sharknado* film came out, so naturally there were comparisons. But while I'm not one to argue about the differences between *Zombeavers* and *Sharknado*, we weren't trying to make a cheap CGI movie, but one with cheap practical effects. We're

"WHEN MY FRIENDS SUGGESTED MAKING A FILM ABOUT ZOMBIE BEAVERS, I FELL ABOUT LAUGHING. IT WAS THE FUNNIEST THING I'D EVER HEARD!"





paying tribute to films from the 1980s that we love, and which had ridiculous stories but were played completely straight.

We're guessing *Gremlins* was a big influence in that respect, right?

JORDAN: I love *Gremlins*. In *Zombeavers* we have a shot of a beaver who has a mohawk, which is a homage to Stripe, the main villain in *Gremlins*. I'm also inspired by *Child's Play* and John Carpenter's *The Thing*, which is one of my favourite horror movies ever. A lot of our young cast had never seen *The Thing*, so we got them to watch it because I love the way the guys in that film are hanging around in a frozen wasteland. Because of its premise you could carry on watching that movie, even if the horror stuff never happened.

The human cast in *Zombeavers* is sexy, but the animatronic monsters are the real stars. Was it always your intention to keep the special effects old school, not CGI?

JORDAN: As we had a limited budget, I decided that it would be better to try and fail with practical effects than try to do what we could afford with CGI. If we'd used CGI with our budget, we *may* have got a couple of shots that looked believable, but the rest would've been totally camp. With practical effects you can aim high – and even if you don't hit that bar, you still get a visceral feeling and have something more real and fun for the actors to play off. Luckily Mark and Creature Effects

came aboard, and they've worked on much bigger studio projects such as *The Lone Ranger*, *I Am Legend* and the puppet in *Ted*. They just did it for the love of the game.

Mark, you started out working on some modest budget horror films. Was this what drew you towards *Zombeavers*?

MARK: Absolutely. When I was starting out I worked on *Killer Klowns From Outer Space* and then hooked up with Charles Band, who at time was making millions of dollars from these wonderfully low-budget, straight-to-video films such as *Puppet Master*. I didn't make much money from those films, but I was young and didn't care because I was getting to build flame-throwers and make explosives! Then my shop took off, and since then we've been working on huge productions such as *300* and *The Last Samurai*. There's a lot more tension when making big budget films; producers are in your face all the time, and will scream and threaten to sue you if anything goes wrong. *Zombeavers* features similar effects to movies back in the late 1980s and early 90s such as *The Fly II* and *Tremors*, a time when digital effects didn't really exist and films were more fun to make.

Jordan, how involved were you in the animatronic process?

JORDAN: Mark let me see the process from beginning to end, and approved the designs of the animatronics. I come from a comedy →

BEAVER PATROL

ZOMBIE BEAVERS VS CREATURE CLASSICS

Which of these big screen creatures are more mental than the Zombeavers?

BLACK SHEEP 2006

Creature: Genetically engineered sheep

WIN LOSE DRAW



ATTACK OF THE KILLER TOMATOES 1978

Creature: Mutant tomatoes

WIN LOSE DRAW



THE KILLER SHREWS 1959

Creature: Mutant shrews

WIN LOSE DRAW



GHOULIES 1985

Creature: Demons

WIN LOSE DRAW



KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE 1988

Creature: Alien clowns

WIN LOSE DRAW



BEAVER PATROL

writing background, and I'd made a few shorts, but as this was my first feature I sought advice from my director pals John Landis and Eli Roth. They told me to get involved with every department as much possible so that, if anything went wrong, it would be my fault! That goes with the animatronics, too. I was like a kid in a candy store at Creature Effects. I couldn't wait to get involved with the effects.

Has animatronic technology changed much since the 1980s and 90s?

MARK: No – and because the budget for *Zombeavers* was in line with the money effects people had to play with when making creature films in the 1980s and 90s, that was another reason why I wanted to do it. Most of our new guys had only ever worked on big films, where there is lots of pressure, so we had to break down doors and show them how to have fun with this stuff. We had four people working on the fur and sewing of the beavers, and four people on the mechanics. We spent about a month-and-a-half in total. We'd already built some submarines for another production, and we adapted them to create swimming beavers that use the same technology.

JORDAN: It feels like an old school art form, like a cobbler, because everything's done by hand. We had a main hero beaver who I christened Bruce. He had servos in his face so that his nose, eyes, ears, eyebrows and mouth could move independently. If you saw that thing in your living room, you'd swear it was a real animal! Its neck was on a separate control servo that was covered in fur, and



it could walk in any contortion using rod puppetry. It gave us complete control over every element, so that it felt like it was a living, breathing beaver... or zombeaver.

Were the models built to scale?

JORDAN: They're bigger than a traditional beaver, maybe 40-50 per cent bigger, although I'm sure there are some beavers that size, either because they're on steroids or living near a chemical plant. The big challenge was trying to make them look creepy and gruesome. Monsters are traditionally shot from a low angle to make them appear menacing – in *Gremlins*, the villains would often jump onto a counter or swing on a fan. However, beavers are low to the ground, which only adds to the ridiculousness and comedy.

Mark, does your shop resemble a giant mortuary of fake body parts?

MARK: Yeah, it does. But there are also lots of animals in there. In fact, we're especially famous for horses – ours have travelled to New Zealand for *The Chronicles Of Narnia* and *The Last Samurai*, and to Germany for *Beauty And The Beast*. We've worked on almost every Western that's been made in last 10 years, such as *True Grit*, *A Million Ways To Die In The West*, *Cowboys And Aliens* – stuff you wouldn't realise had mechanical horses. We also have 10 animatronic babies that are always being hired out, and we created a demon baby for *Devil's Due*.

Jordan, was it a big challenge moving from comedy to horror?

JORDAN: Not at all – in fact, it helped. I did stand-up for years, where you're always working to set up a premise for a situation, before taking an unexpected turn down an alley where there's a joke or a scare. With *Zombeavers*, I tried to make sure all the actors were playing it straight. The funniest projects I've ever worked on are the ridiculous things that are played completely straight. I told everyone at the beginning of the production "let's just assume we're making *Citizen Kane* and not a film about zombie beavers". And I think it worked. 

Want to see these furry flesh chompers wreak havoc? *Zombeavers* is out on DVD, Blu-ray and download from 20 October. Go get it, sickos!



"YOU'D SWEAR OUR MAIN ZOMBEAVER, WHO WE CALLED BRUCE, WAS A REAL ANIMAL!"





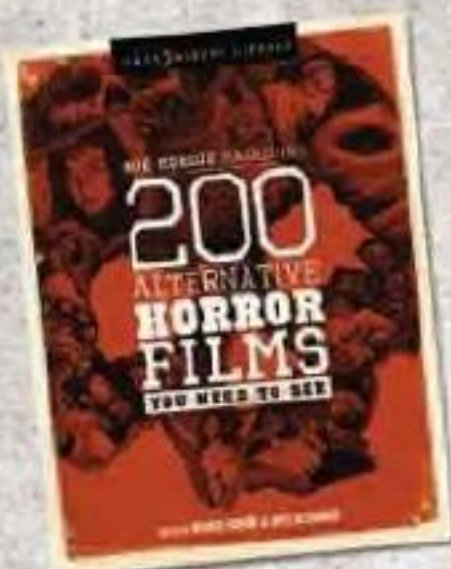
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NIGHTMARE CHILD!

Hallucinations, kiddy violence and a storybook from
hell in this month's must-see shocker, *The Babadook* **p84**

THE BABADOOK

Monster-in-the closet madness abounds in this Australian terror trip...

OUT 24 OCTOBER

AUSTRALIAN SHOCKER *THE*

Babadook follows the fortunes of Amelia, a young widow whose husband is killed in a horrific car crash while driving her to the hospital to give birth to their son, Samuel.

Six years later, Samuel is plagued by nightmares when a pop-up book called *Mister Babadook* appears out of nowhere and its creepy protagonist comes to life. The fright factor is soon cranked the max for Samuel and his depressed mother, whose pill-popping and sleep deprivation have also left her in a fragile, nervous state.

This adaptation of director Jennifer Kent's short film, *Monster*, blends psychological and supernatural horror, and splices Amelia's mental breakdown with the appearance of an evil entity.

Performance-wise, while newcomer Noah Wiseman nails his role as the disturbed child in peril, it's Essie Davis who steals the show as the mentally disturbed Amelia. But while the performances are great, *The Babadook* is not without its problems, and the creature of the feature may be a little too clichéd to excite hardcore horror fans. But as the film creates a tense and sinister atmosphere – and the creature is meant to resemble a scratchily drawn, cardboard pop-up book character – it's easy to forgive *The Babadook's* flaws.

Ultimately, although *The Babadook* plays on superficial childhood fears, at its heart this is a powerful film about the torture people suffer when they lose a loved one. **Billy Chainsaw**

AT ITS HEART,
THIS IS A FILM
ABOUT THE TORTURE
PEOPLE SUFFER
WHEN THEY LOSE
A LOVED ONE



INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS

OUT 31 OCTOBER

Invasion Of The Body Snatchers, the 1956 adaptation of Jack Finney's alarming sci-fi tale, is making a welcome return to the big screen as part of the BFI's 'Days Of Fear And Wonder' season. Hugely influential and genuinely scary, director Don Siegel's classic still has the power to shock and unnerve.



HORNS

OUT 29 OCTOBER

Written by Stephen King's boy, Joe Hill, and starring Harry Potter (OK, Daniel Radcliffe...), *Horns* is the story of a man who wakes up one morning to find a pair of horns sprouting from his temples. And while there's plenty of supernatural horror to sate fright fans, *Horns* also has heaps of black comedy and romance to appeal to multiplex audiences.



OUIJA

OUT 31 OCTOBER

When a young girl is mysteriously killed after playing with an ancient Ouija board, a group of close friends decide to investigate what happened. However, you probably won't be surprised to hear that they soon realise some things aren't meant to be tampered with, especially evil spirits...



WOLF CREEK 2

More Antipodean horror, this time featuring an outback psycho killer...

NEW

SEQUELS TO SUCCESSFUL GENRE

flicks often fall flat on their faces, but that's not the case with this twisted, blood-soaked fright ride.

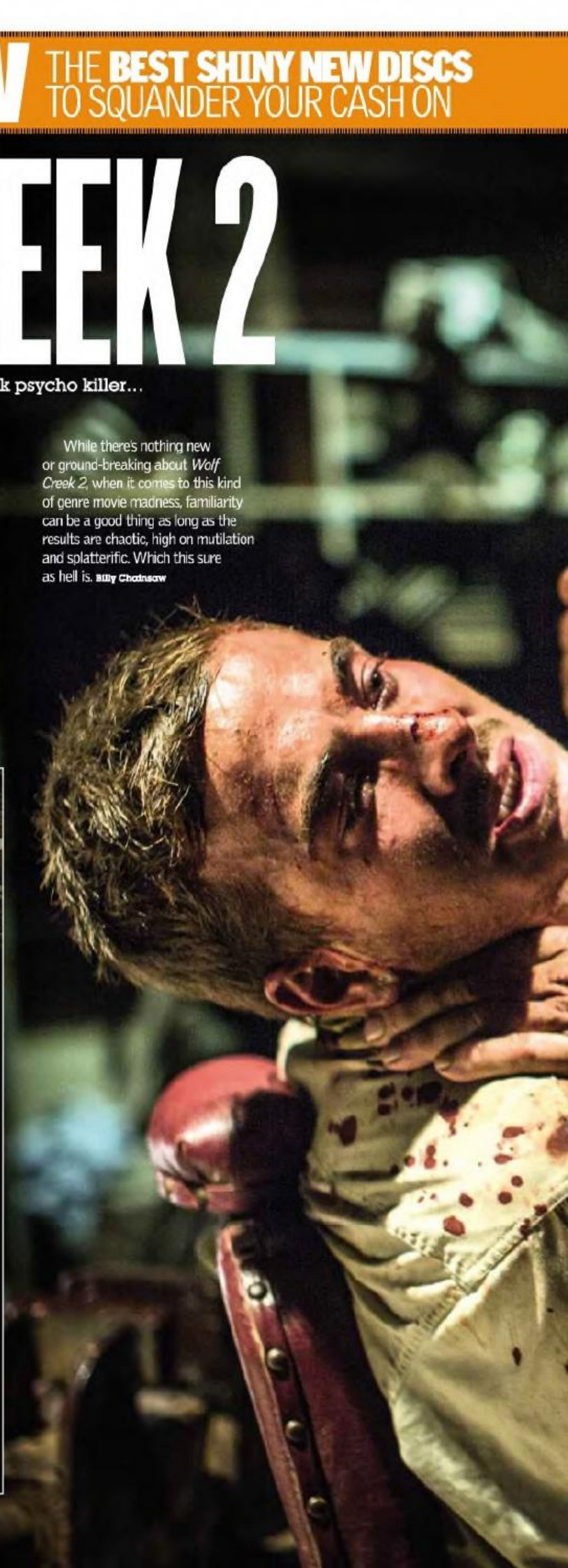
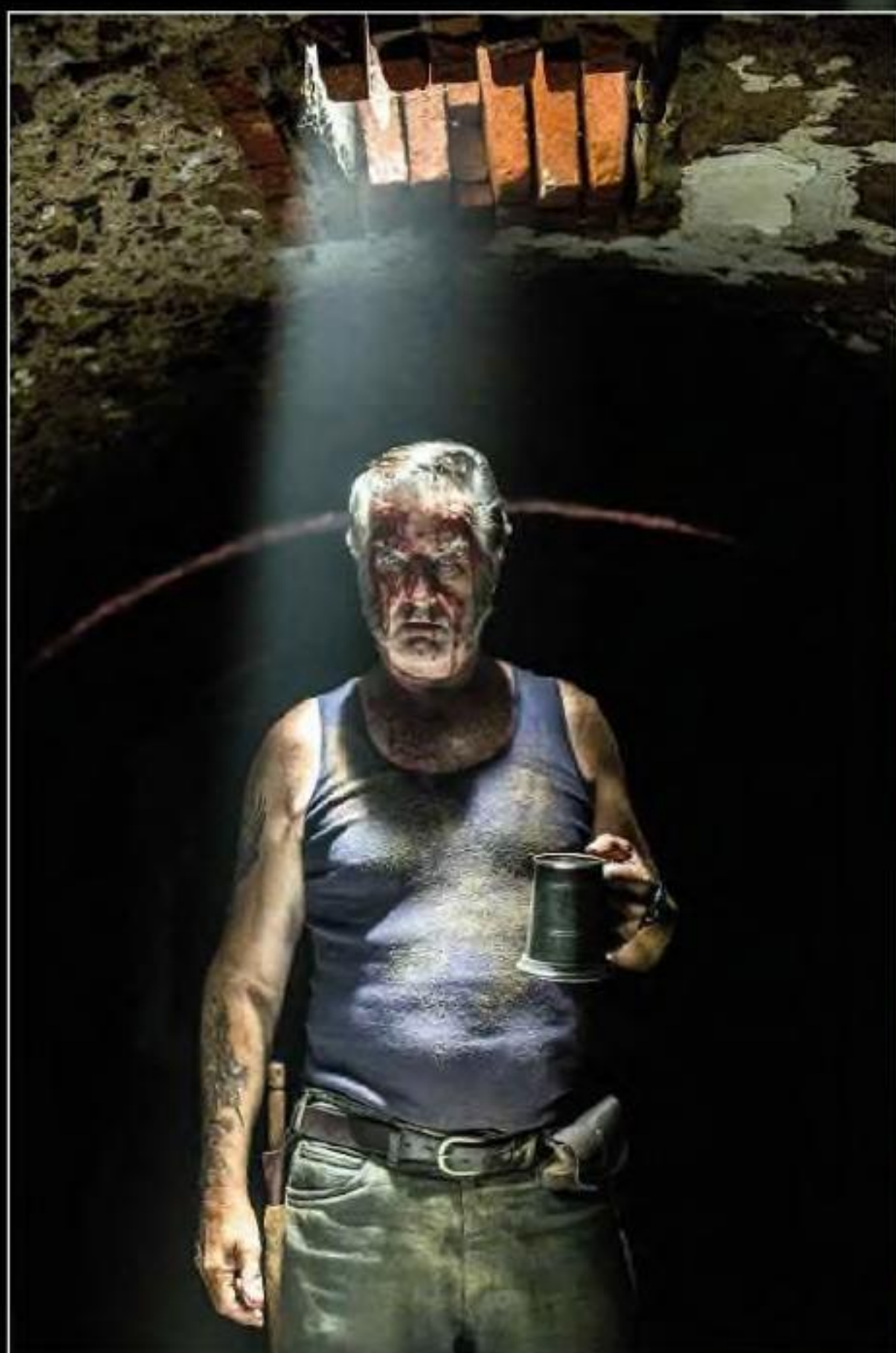
Loosely inspired by the atrocious antics of real-life Australian nutjob, Ivan Milat, *Wolf Creek 2* sees psycho killer Mick Taylor (John Jarratt, reprising his *Wolf Creek* role) ridding the Earth of human 'vermin' in the outback using a rifle, a fuck-off knife, and a whole heap of twisted logic.

Greg Mclean returns once again to the directing and writing duties, and follows a similar sick template to his previous horror hit. And while the settings in this grisly

sequel are more lusciously shot and imaginative, for *Wolf Creek 2* Mclean has put a greater emphasis on humour – pitch-black, of course.

While the first half of the film is made up of a series of grisly-yet-straightforward kills, the movie soon transforms into a tense game of cat and mouse between mad Mick and a 'porn' with the brilliantly English name Paul Hammersmith (*Where The Wild Things Are*'s Ryan Corr). The interaction between the pair allows Mclean to change tack, and he starts piling on psychological terror and torment with skin-crawling intensity.

While there's nothing new or ground-breaking about *Wolf Creek 2*, when it comes to this kind of genre movie madness, familiarity can be a good thing as long as the results are chaotic, high on mutilation and splatterific. Which this sure as hell is. **Billy Chow**





BLACULA: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

OUT NOW

When the blaxpolitation and horror genres collided, *Blacula* was the unholy result. The story of an African prince who's bitten by Dracula and turned into a 1970s bloodsucker, *Blacula* inspired a series of groovy sequels, all of which are included in this fangadelic collection.



THE BEAST

OUT NOW

A 1975 French erotic fantasy horror that explores the relationship between a woman and a monster, *The Beast* is filthy, depraved and weird. It's worth watching if only for the scene where the heroine hangs from a tree while the beast licks her and has a crafty wank...



WAY OF THE WICKED

OUT NOW

Years after exorcising an evil spirit, an enigmatic priest suspects that the devil has returned and seeks the help of a veteran detective. Oh, did we say that the priest's played by Christian Slater, and the cop by Vinnie Jones? Now *that's* bizarre...



REAL **HORROR** SHOW



THIS
MONTH:
**BAD
MILO**

BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from *Bizarre's* free film club, CUT!

“

CUT! is the *Bizarre* film club that I organise and host once a month in London's creepiest venue, The Horse Hospital.

"In keeping with *Bizarre's* senses-searing content, we only showcase the most horrifying, strange, violent and downright arty films at CUT!, and all our screenings are exclusive previews of yet-to-be-released movies. And as if that wasn't enough, everyone who comes along gets a free beer or soft drink to sup on. Are there any other magazines that would give you such an awesome freebie? Of course not!

"At the most recent CUT! we screened one of the maddest movies ever made, *Bad Milo*.

"*Bad Milo* is a sick and twisted, full-tilt horror flick about a bloke named Duncan who has a demon living inside his arse.

"Tragic Duncan is the offspring of a dysfunctional family – his deadbeat dad legged it when he was a nipper, and his mom's a motor-mouthed nympho – and when extra stress is piled on when Duncan is demoted at work, our hero discovers his inner demon.

"The beast in Duncan's butt is very fond of his host, and often goes on a walkabout to slaughter anyone who's done our hero wrong. Not surprisingly, this is where the film goes into gory overdrive.

"More dark comedy than out-and-out horror, *Bad Milo* is reminiscent of 1980s mini-monster movies such as *Ghoulies* and *Critters*, but with an extra helping of bad taste jokes and more gore than you could shake a bloodied axe at.

"Despite *Bad Milo's* gross-out nature, director Jacob Vaughan orchestrates the carnage warmth; and while the arse-dwelling demon has

murderous ways, the Milo puppet is almost as adorable as a newborn human!

"Acting in such a fucked-up flick must be a challenge, so kudos is due to Ken Marino who plays Duncan, and to *Constantine's* Peter Stormare who plays it coolly loopy as the shrink who helps Duncan deal with the beast within.

"Naturally, everyone who came to see *Bad Milo* left The Horse Hospital grinning from ear-to-ear. In short, it was another classic CUT!

”

Bad Milo will be released on DVD on 20 October



IF YOU LIKE **BAD MILO** YOU MIGHT LIKE **BASKET CASE** (1982)

One of the craziest cult movies ever made, *Basket Case* is the offbeat tale of a guy named Duane and his deformed (and once conjoined) twin brother, Belial, who lives in a basket. The pair communicate telepathically, and move to New York intent on killing the doctors who separated them. Unfortunately, when Duane gets a girlfriend, Belial goes mental and the film takes a turn into darker territory, transforming from weird monster movie into an unsettling psychosexual shocker. Not surprisingly, Frank Henenlotter's cult classic spawned two sequels which, while not as dark as the original, are well worth checking out.



WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre's* Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

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GODFLESH

The reformed industrial innovators on waging war against Danzig fans and the battle against becoming an "old man band"...

Q&A JUSTIN BROADRICK – GUITAR, VOCALS, PROGRAMMING

A WORLD LIT ONLY BY FIRE



Godflesh are one of the most important underground bands of the last

30 years. Formed in Birmingham in 1988, the duo married programmed sounds with minimalist guitar shred, creating harsh sonics that envisioned the dark alleyways of their decaying city. Now back with a seventh studio LP following a 13-year absence, the band's repetitive, hypnotic assault seems just as relevant – and terrifying – as ever. **Stephen Doubray**

You played a handful of UK dates earlier this year. Are new, younger fans now discovering the mechanical brutality of Godflesh?

Those shows were probably the first wide-reaching shows we've done in the UK for 13 years, and they were great. Thankfully, we attracted a dynamic age group – everyone from our age, mid-40s upwards, down to 18-year-olds. That was comforting. My fear was that we'd be playing to almost entirely people our own age. I don't want to be an old man band, that'd be fucking shit! Not that young people have it good with new music these days.

Along with Killing Joke, you're one of the truest innovators of both industrial and underground music. Are you surprised at how relevant Godflesh are today?

Killing Joke are a huge influence on Godflesh because of how many music cultures they embraced. I feel similarly with Godflesh. We're a late-1980s, post-punk band that's informed by the excesses of avant-garde and extreme

metal, and underground hip-hop. It's rare to get a band of 21-year-olds these days who play music that encapsulates the past, present and future. 'Post-punk' has become a trendy phrase, and there are young bands that reference their dad's record collection, but their sound is often one-dimensional and doesn't ingest the music that informed post-punk such as dub reggae and krautrock. That's why I think younger people are hearing the relevance of Godflesh.

What were your goals when you sat down to write new Godflesh material?

It was impulsive. When Godflesh folded in 2001, I was content leaving behind the impulsive, aggressive music in order to explore the sombre, introspective music with my new band, Jesu (Justin formed post-rock outfit Jesu in 2003). Then, around 2005, I started missing Godflesh. Making new records was the main reason we reformed. I wanted to return to our purest form and sound – two guys and machines making guttural, minimal, unforgiving and brutal music. One of the best things Godflesh ever did was break up, because it's really revitalised what we do. It's strange but a real pleasure to be in my mid-40s and playing

limited! Faith No More's stuff is so technical I couldn't play it anyway.

Danzig's sound at that point was also classic metal and blues inspired.

It seems hard to imagine you as their lead axeman...

Yes, it shocked me when (frontman) Glenn Danzig wanted me to replace their departing guitarist, John Christ, but I think it was his plan to do an industrial metal record. He wanted to absorb Godflesh. Fuck knows if he would've wanted me to go out and play 'Mother', though (Danzig's mainstream hit). I suspect he did.

It would have been an interesting and exciting collaboration...

Yes, in fact Glenn invited Godflesh to support Danzig and Type O Negative on a two-month tour of America in 1994. The first show we played was in Dallas, opening up in front of 8,000 people. The amount of abuse we got on that tour was fucking unrivalled. Most of the audience fucking hated Godflesh! We were met with walls of fucking abuse every show we did. Most of Danzig's audience in 1994 was made up of Beavis and Butthead lookalikes. We often walked off the stage sticking our fingers up, telling everyone to fuck off!

Tribalism in music still existed

"WE WERE MET WITH WALLS OF FUCKING ABUSE!"

music that was born from my teens. **Is it true that Faith No More and Danzig asked you to join on guitar?**

Yes, Faith No More asked just after *Angel Dust* in 1992, so it was at the band's peak, really. I knew I couldn't do it, though. Coincidentally, Geordie Walker from Killing Joke was also asked, but Geordie's style is so unique and individual that he can't just fit into someone else's band. I'm far more

back then, even *within* alternative music. If that tour happened today, it would go down a storm.

That's true. You can play diverse bills now and not be met with derision. We sometimes get offered slots on festivals where it's so eclectic and we think, "Fucking hell, will this work?" But the music climate is great today and it was always our mission to get on eclectic bills.

PICTURE: V&B



THE BEARDS

THE BEARD ALBUM



OUT 10 NOVEMBER

Aussie 'hair rockers' The Beards, who we bravely interviewed back in *Bizarre 212*,

only sing about beards. Their new record opens with some piano-led pomp that sounds like Elton John singing about beards in GarageBand. The fifth track sounds like Van Halen singing about making love to bearded chicks in GarageBand. Even the album cover is caked in face fur. Hair-raising.

THURSTON MOORE & JOHN MOLONEY

FULL BLEED



OUT 21 OCTOBER

Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore has two solo albums out this month, but this one's

the more bizarre. In it, he and drum-harassing noize barbarian, John Moloney, create unholy levels of avant-garde cacophony using guitars, pedals and drums. It's the sound that rhinos make when you dental floss them with barbed wire. Your neighbours will hate you horribly if / when you put it on.

MENMON SA

CITADEL



OUT NOW

This sprawling, mournful mass of 'ancient psychedelia' is the debut solo

offering from Misha Hering, a multi-instrumentalist producer dude who clearly has a fetish for trippy cinema and old horror films. If you're planning to dig up some (cursed) ancient artefacts in the Middle East anytime soon, we can't think of anything better to have on your iPod. Except for maybe Phil Collins.

KRAWWL / BARSHASKETH

SPLIT



OUT NOW

This 'split' release of eardrum-blasting bludgeonry contains four epic tracks

from two different acts: Irish noizeniks KRAWWL and Scotland's black metal nasties Barshasketh, two bands who vie to keep old school traditions burning while also pushing musical boundaries. The *Phantasm*-like play-out to the latter's 'As Flesh Becomes Earth' will haunt you forever.

BOOKS THE BEST NEW READS ON THE SHELVES THIS MONTH

THE ART OF GODMACHINE

Beware the dark arts of Cardiff...

GODMACHINE

OUT NOW

HELLO, MY NAME IS

Arturo Manzanek Dracul. I am a one-year-old bearded dragon. For

those of you who are ignorant to the wonders of the reptile kingdom, 'beardies' are handsome lizards of Australian heritage. My hobbies include eating crickets and walking into walls. But recently I have also become a huge fan of the dark artist Godmachine, a discovery that has given my life whole new meaning and purpose. And it is with great privilege that I have been invited by *Bizarre* to review the visionary's new, all-colour 192-page hardback book, *The Art Of Godmachine*.

Godmachine is a gifted artist from Cardiff who used to be fix broken plug sockets, but now creates highly-detailed, dark fantasy images to adorn tees, skateboards and gallery walls. And as you can see, they are bloody marvellous and macabre.

I first became aware of Godmachine's blackened work when my housemate left his copy of *The Art*



Of Godmachine open in the lounge when I'd popped out of my vivarium for my daily run-round (and also, to escape the giant poo I had just done). I was instantly attracted to a picture of a horned skeleton groping a redhead's breasts. I flicked a few pages on and was subsequently blown away by the sight of a sombre-looking skeleton with wings sitting in a big puddle of entrails and a 'dead' skeleton. Oh what gruesomely grubby delights! My reptilian self was unable to control itself!

I flicked on further and was left dumbfounded by the sprawl of devils, temptresses and wolverines that besieged my tiny, impressionable eyes. What's more, all these powerful piccies had been salaciously printed across glossy, lickable pages. And, as a lizard, I do lots of licking. These ones have been licked to buggery. Do yourselves a huge favour and go out and buy it now. You fucking pussies.

Arturo Manzanek Dracul



STEAMPUNK: BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH THE NEW VICTORIANS

PAUL ROLAND



OUT NOW

Suitable for newbies and seasoned steamers alike, author Roland – a cult musician and paranormal researcher – whisks you away on a journey through the origins of this futuristic Victoriana subculture. It's filled with great interviews, including author Cherie Priest, and is essential reading for those exploring the world of clockwork, steamships and gas-lit adventure.

BURNT TONGUES

CHUCK PALAHNIUK (EDITOR) / VARIOUS



OUT NOW

If you're into shocking, transgressive fiction, you'll dig this ace collection of tales from new writers, who've all been hand-picked (and co-nurtured) by our fave novelist, Chuck Palahniuk, through his fansite. However, some of his brethren seem to have crafted their styles rather closely in the big guy's image. Whatever happened to cultivating your own sicko style, eh?

GRINDHOUSE DOORS OPEN AT MIDNIGHT, VOLUME 1

ALEX DE CAMPL, SIMON FRASER, CHRIS PETERSON



OUT NOW

Exploitation fans, limber up your senses for some OTT graphic novelised ridiculousness. *Volume 1* sees anthropomorphic bees unleashing merry hell in smalltown America, which is followed up by a sadistic bitch of a warder acid-hosing jailbirds aboard a female space prison. Expect more gory madness in *Volume 2*, out in December.

STORM

TIM MINCHIN WITH MC TURNER AND TRACY KING



OUT NOW

The second Aussie in this month's book pages (after Arturo, the bearded dragon) is eyeliner-clad comic Tim Minchin, who's well known for his musical comedy. He's also an outspoken atheist, and this quirky beat poem – based on a real-life encounter – sees a sceptic lose his rag with a loud-mouthed, hippy 'believer' at a dinner party. It's charmingly illustrated and ranty.

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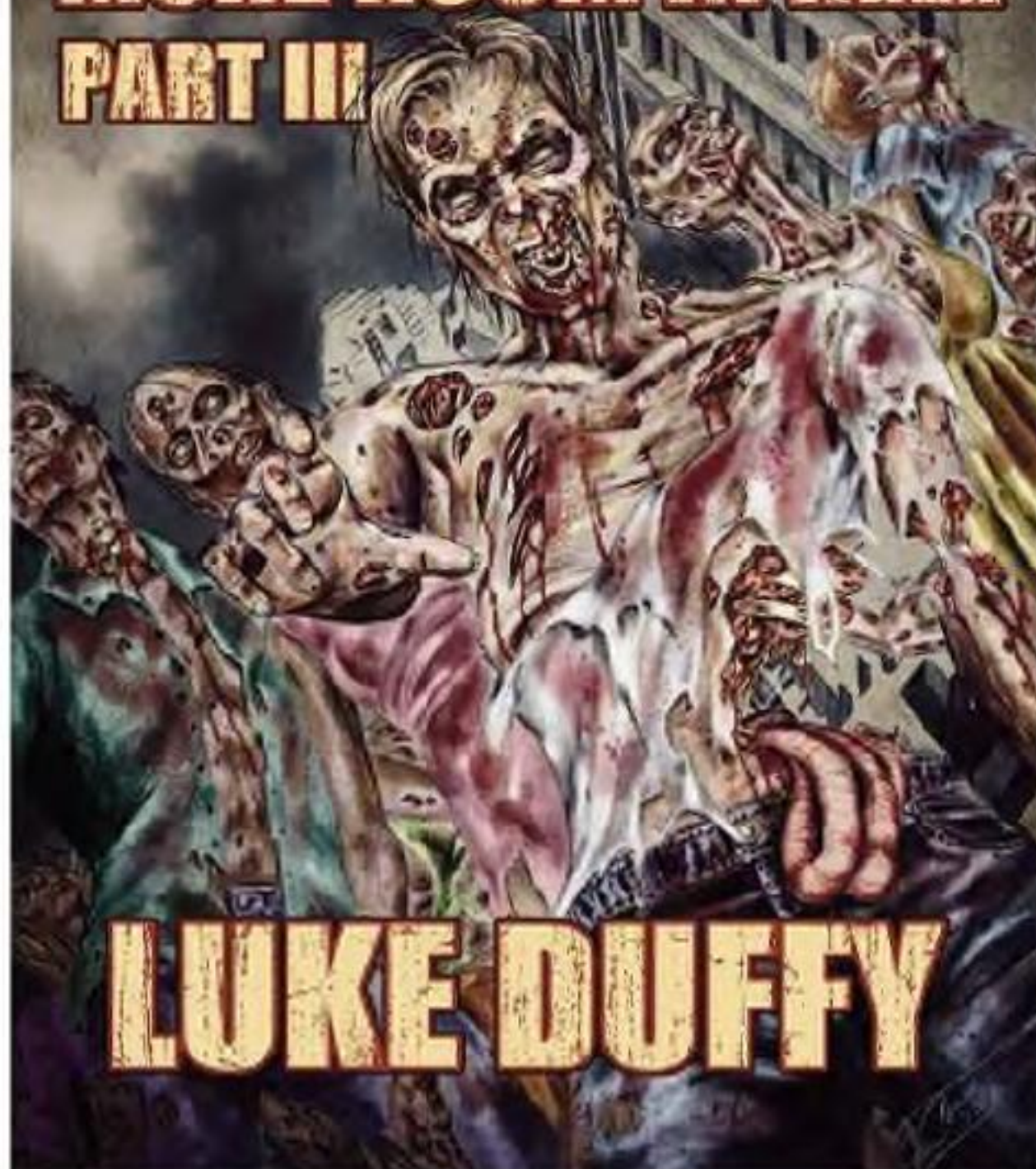
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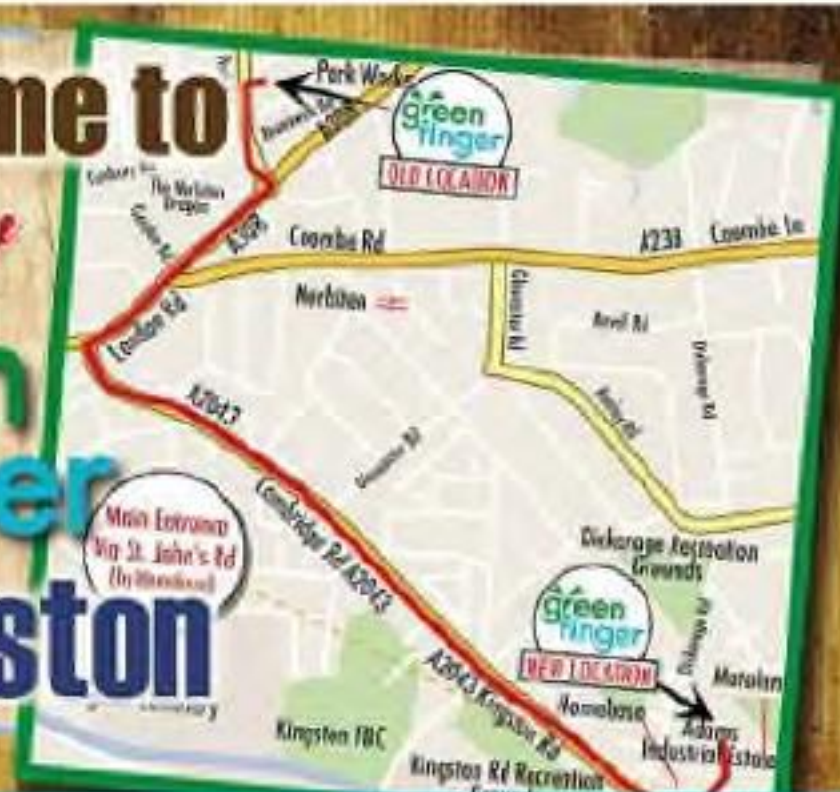
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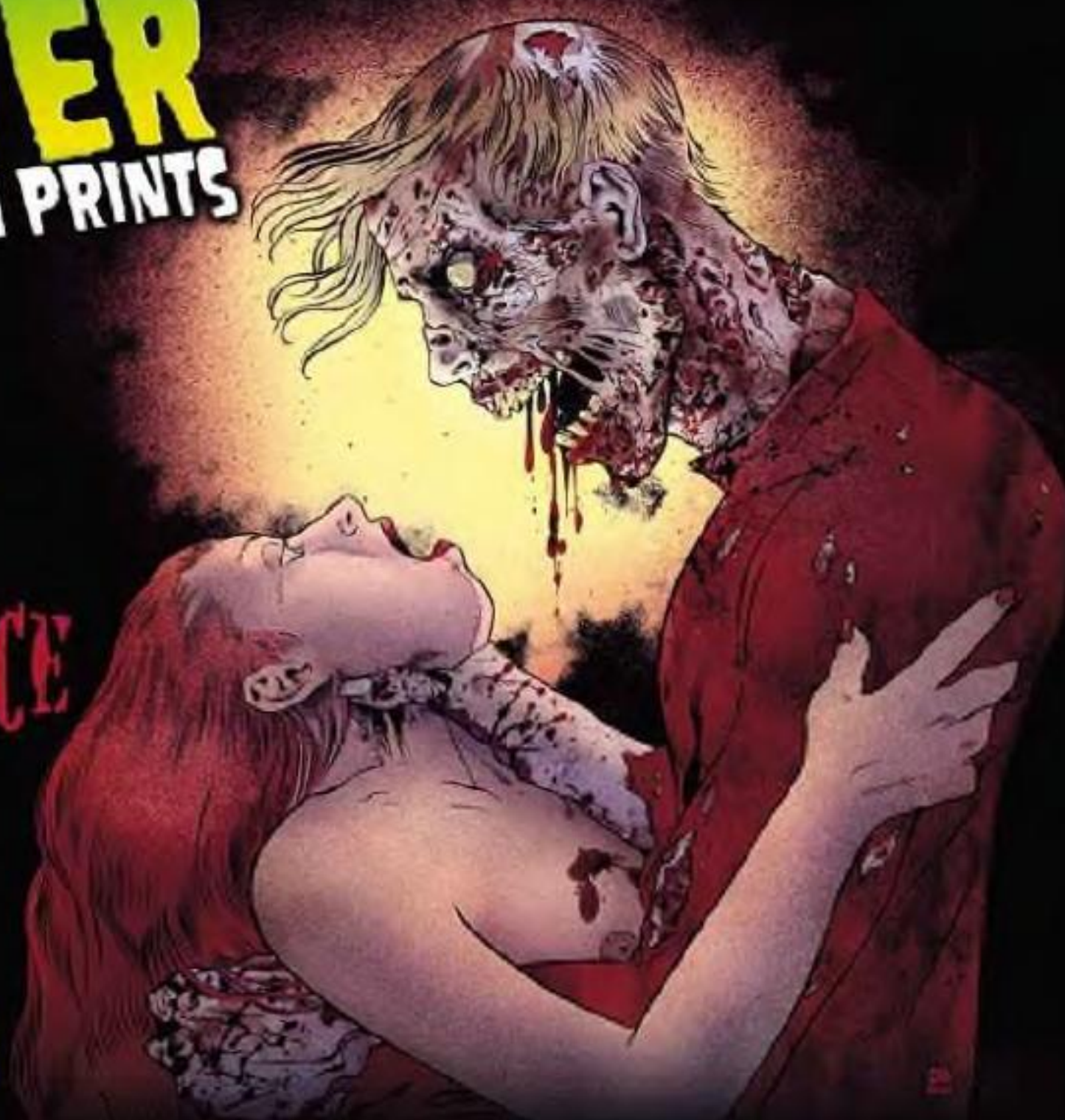
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